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EUROPE

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## Mandelson anger over gay smear story



Peter Mandelson: victim of 'vicious smear campaign'

Ewen MacAskill, Chief Political Correspondent

**T**HE man at the heart of allegations about the private life of Trade and Industry Secretary, Peter Mandelson, broke his silence yesterday to dismiss allegations that the two had toured sleazy gay haunts in Rio de Janeiro.

Martin Dowle, director of the British Council in Rio, accused the Conservative leader, William Hague, of conducting a smear campaign against the minister. "I think

it is disgraceful for William Hague to take innuendo, lies and smears as part of a process of destruction of the lives of professional people," he said.

Mr Hague, during the Queen's Speech debate last week, surprised the Commons when he made a reference to "Lord Mandelson of Rio". The Government saw this as a deliberate and underhand attempt by Mr Hague to get into the political arena a series of lurid allegations made by Punch magazine this month about a visit to Brazil in July by Mr Mandelson.

The magazine claimed in a lengthy article that Mr Mandelson and Mr Dowle, a former BBC political correspondent, had visited sordid bars and nightclubs in Rio.

Mr Dowle, speaking from his home in Ipswich in Rio yesterday, described the Punch allegations as rubbish, from beginning to end. "I think that Peter and myself have been the victims of a horrendous smear campaign that is like something out of Kafka. It is not clear who has been our judge, jury and prosecution."

Mr Dowle's decision to speak was done with the blessing of the Government,

and partly because of the growing body of newspaper cuttings about the Rio visit going unchallenged.

A friend of Mr Mandelson said: "The Tories have conspired in the spreading of these smears. It is underhand and it is vicious and they owe an apology, especially Hague."

The Government feels vindicated by a Mail on Sunday investigation which yesterday concluded the Punch story was without foundation.

Mr Dowle, who has refused to speak to the Mail on Sunday or any other journalist over the past few weeks, said

he had had a horrendous time since the story broke. In a detailed rebuttal of the Punch story, Mr Dowle went over Mr Mandelson's itinerary for the first time. He had met Mr Mandelson, whom he had known since he had been a political correspondent in the 1980s when Mr Mandelson had been Labour's director of communication, after a BA flight from London on July 18.

They had gone to Mr Dowle's home for a bottle of wine and then gone into the centre for a tour that included a visit to restoration work, a baroque church where a wedding was being held, and the

site of the massacre of eight street children.

"There was no nightclub at all. He was in bed at 10.30," Mr Dowle said, adding it was absurd to believe that someone would come off a long flight and want to go bopping. He said Mr Mandelson would have had to be "superhuman" to have done that.

Mr Mandelson and Mr Dowle were accompanied for most of the weekend by Mr Dowle's partner, Fabricio da Silva.

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## QCs set to lose 'fat cat' money

Claire Dyer, Legal Correspondent

**M**INISTERS are considering far-reaching proposals to end controversial "fat cat" payments to top QCs who have earned as much as £400,000 a year from legal aid.

The Lord Chancellor wants to scrap higher pay rates for QCs by offering barristers a "rate for the job" and to halt double-manning by barristers in legal aid cases.

Lord Irvine, who has publicly criticised high-earning QCs as "fat cats", believes current practices cost the taxpayer millions of pounds a year that could be better spent on basic legal help for the poor.

In a move likely to be opposed by barristers, he plans to make sure that legal aid pays for only one barrister in the vast majority of publicly funded cases.

Until 1977, Bar rules banned QCs from appearing without a junior barrister to assist. But although the so-called "two counsel" rule was abolished, the practice persists in most cases.

The result in legal aid cases is that the taxpayer has to pay a large fee for the QC, plus typically two-thirds of the QC's rate for the junior, on top of solicitors' charges.

Ministers accept some cases, such as serious fraud, will need two barristers. But they believe such cases will be exceptional and in most cases which warrant QCs they will have to do the work alone.

With the flat-rate payment system being discussed by ministers, solicitors would be able to employ a QC if he or she agreed to take the case for the rate offered. Otherwise the fee would go to a "senior junior" — an experienced barrister who is not a QC.

Daniel Brennan QC, the Bar's chairman-elect, said: "These are significant matters which we will have to

discuss before we come up with a policy statement". He added: "Most silks [QCs] do a different level of job. Are the Government proposing to pay consultants the same rate as GPs?"

The Access to Justice Bill, expected to be published on Wednesday, will contain powers for the Lord Chancellor to make regulations ending double-manning and prescribing a rate for the job, though no decision has been taken to use the latter power. The rules axing double-manning could be brought into force next year.

The judges, who decide in crown court criminal cases how many lawyers a case warrants and at what level, will be given guidance on which cases are exceptional enough to merit two barristers. In some parts of the country judges regularly approve QCs to defend in rape cases, while in other areas rapes are routinely and more cheaply handled by senior juniors.

Ministers feel that judges should not take such decisions without guidance because they have no means of weighing up the relative priorities between crown court cases and other claims on the legal aid fund.

The Bar's system of work allocation currently encourages the use of two barristers. Usually a civil case goes first to a junior who does the preparatory work. If the Legal Aid Board agrees the case is complex enough, the junior brings in a QC. The silk is often reluctant to cut the junior out, even though the case could be handled by a QC alone. One senior QC admitted: "It has been abused like everything else."

He said QCs' clerks regularly gave back-handers to the clerks of juniors in other chambers who brought them into cases.

In future, a junior who wanted to bring a QC into a civil case would have to submit an opinion to that effect to the legal aid authorities. If the application was successful, the junior would then drop out of the case.

A time-exposure view of an eruption from the Popocatepetl volcano near Mexico City. The volcano, whose name means the Smoking Mountain, has returned to activity after a period of relative calm and local villages have been put on alert, although seismologists and volcanologists do not expect the eruptions to present any danger. PHOTOGRAPH BY DANIEL AGUILAR

## US urges Pinochet return

Quiet pressure by Washington adds to dilemma for Straw

Ewen MacAskill, Elizabeth Lowe in Santiago and Nick Hopkins

**T**HE US is quietly putting pressure on the British Government to allow General Augusto Pinochet to be allowed to return to Chile.

The US Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright, has raised the issue twice in the last fortnight with the Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, according to Foreign Office sources.

Washington has kept a low profile since Gen Pinochet's arrest and maintained publicly that it is a legal issue, but in private the US has expressed concern that the affair is destabilising democracy in Chile.

The disclosure of US involvement has added to the Government's dilemma.

Although Chilean Foreign Minister Jose Miguel Insulza is lobbying to secure Gen Pinochet's return by claiming the former dictator will face charges relating to torture, deaths and disappearances in Chile, it became clear yesterday the 11 lawsuits against

him are not being pursued with any vigour. Few commentators in Chile believe they will result in Gen Pinochet having to defend himself in court.

The Home Office also seemed lukewarm to Mr Insulza's proposal. A spokesman said the Home Secretary, Jack Straw, would "look closely" at any initiative, but denied a deal had been done.

Downing Street said the issue of extradition was being left to Mr Straw, who has until December 11 to decide whether to allow legal proceedings to start in Britain.

Most experts believe the law lords ruling that Gen Pinochet does not have immunity from prosecution leaves Mr Straw with little room for manoeuvre. Theoretically, the Home Secretary can only let him go home on humanitarian grounds.

Although he is 83 and recently had an operation on his back, Gen Pinochet is not thought to be unwell. Reports yesterday suggested he may leave the Grovelands Priory hospital in Southgate, north London, for a nine-bedroom mansion in Virginia Water, Surrey, within days.



Gen Pinochet: 'no way he could be judged in Chile'

American concern cannot be easily dismissed. The US is sensitive to the furor because it sees Latin America as its own backyard and because of lingering embarrassment over the alleged role of the CIA in the fall of President Allende and the rise of Gen Pinochet.

In television interviews yesterday, Mr Insulza pressed the Government to accept a deal to let Gen Pinochet go.

Speaking on the BBC's Breakfast with Frost, he said Gen Pinochet might be forced to disclose details of what happened during the coup

and its aftermath if he went back to Chile.

"The only real chance to have some kind of justice and some kind of truth is in Chile where the events happened," he said.

Chile does not want Gen Pinochet to face what it regards as a "show trial" in Spain, where he would not be jailed even if he was convicted. Nobody over the age of 75 is imprisoned in Spain.

However, Chile's intentions are bound to be viewed with scepticism by Labour MPs and human rights groups.

Appellate Judge Juan Guzman Tapia is currently in the "discovery" stage, a preliminary investigation prior to determining if the charges merit proceeding further.

Martha Lagos, a political analyst in Chile, said: "There is no way Pinochet could be judged in Chile. Who would be brave enough to stick their neck out like that?"

The Foreign Office played down the role of the US and said Mr Cook and Ms Albright had not spoken since the Law Lords delivered their verdict: "If it (the Pinochet issue) cropped up in the past, it was only in passing."

Chile's long search for justice, page 4; Leader comment and Letters, page 9

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UK news	International
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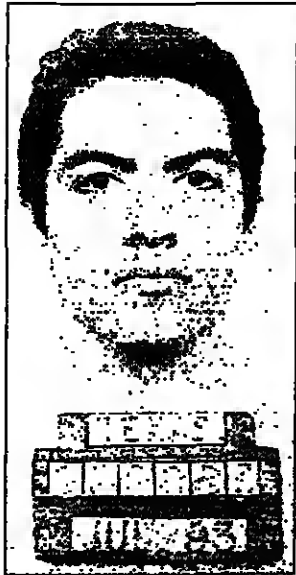
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'He's a crazy man, a killer, so he'll kill other people. Who would believe someone on death row could escape? Someone inside must have helped'



Dogs search for Martin Gurule (above left), who defied bullets and razor-wire fences in his escape on Friday near Huntsville. MAIN PHOTOGRAPH BY BRETT COOMER

## Death-row escapee on the run

**Texas killer in first jailbreak since Bonnie and Clyde 1934 escapade**

Michael Ellison in New York

**A** DOUBLE killer was still on the run last night after achieving fame of a sort as the first person to escape from death row in Texas since 1934, when Bonnie and Clyde sprang a member of their gang.

Six other prisoners tried and failed in the dash for freedom with Gurule, who scaled two razor-wire fences in his escape on Friday night. The last man to break out of the state's death row was Floyd Hamilton, cousin of Clyde Barrow, Bonnie and Clyde, romantically in the 1930s Warren Beatty-Paye Dunaway movie, shot dead two guards and freed him. The mass hunt for Gurule switched for a time to a town four miles west of the prison, when a homeowner fired shots at an intruder, who turned out to be another man. "We've pulled our people back to the original search

area," said Larry Fitzgerald, a Texas prison spokesman. "We're still steadfast and resolved that this guy is here." The woodland is so thick and marshy that the fugitive would have been unable to move quickly. "It's just a matter of time," said the state's attorney general. But the fate of one of Gurule's victims, a Corpus Christi restaurant owner, said they feared he had escaped the dragnet. "We don't feel safe," George Piperis, who runs the diner where his brother Mike was shot dead, said. "He's a crazy man and who knows what he'll do next. He's a killer, so he'll kill other people."

Gurule was convicted of the 1992 murder of Mike Piperis and a cook, Anthony Staton, at the U&I restaurant. His girlfriend, Malissa Smith, who had worked at the diner, was jailed for 25 years. Texas, which has executed 17 prisoners this year, has the highest death row population in the United States — 454 — but not the most spartan regime. That accolade goes to Oklahoma, where prisoners are kept in an underground block with concrete furniture and no windows. The inmates are allowed one hour of recreation a day behind left walls. Gurule and the six who tried to break out with him had been on a "work capable" programme, granted for good behaviour, allowing them freedom to leave their cells without direct supervision, eat

meals in a dayroom and have more time for recreation. He was among the one-third of the inmates who work as janitors or in the prison's air-conditioned clothing factory. Video cameras did not record Gurule scaling the razor wire, and internal affairs investigators were trying to work out how he escaped. The prison's death row is officially called Ellis Unit 1, a name borrowed by the country singer Steve Earle to tell the story of a prison officer on the soundtrack of the Tim Robbins film *Dead Man Walking*. Execution dates had not been set for any of the seven, but Gurule had an appeal rejected a year ago. Prison authorities believe the men had been working on their plan for several weeks. They made dummies out of pillows and

blankets and then dressed in long underwear dyed black with felt-tip pens, to make it harder to see them in the dark. It is understood that they were able to get through a chain-link fence into an outer yard, and then on to the prison roof, which they crawled across before dropping down to make the 75-yard dash to the perimeter fence. Guards opened fired and six of the men gave up. Gurule carried on running, dodged the bullets and made it over the two 100-ft-high fences. Blood was found at the spot but it was not known whether he had been shot or cut. "There's a way to go over the wire," said Mr Fitzgerald. "You take a jacket or a blanket and put it on top of the wire and roll over it. He's the first to get all the way outside."

## Brothers die in separate falls from road bridge

Rory Carroll

**A** YOUNG man plunged to his death from a motorway bridge yesterday just feet from where his brother slipped and died in a similar accident eight weeks ago.

Andrew McKay, aged 21, was sitting on the handrail contemplating his brother when he appeared to overbalance, said relatives. He died from head injuries sustained in the 33ft fall on to the M6, yards from his home in Riddrie, Glasgow. Strathclyde police said there were no suspicious circumstances and that it was a tragic, bizarre coincidence. On October 3 David McKay, aged 17, slipped while hanging over the bridge railings to impress his new girlfriend. The brothers' father, Andrew, said they would be buried together. "It just can't

believe this has happened to my family twice. It's horrible." Andy was still grieving badly for his brother. We all were but he just couldn't get over it. It's terrible that he has died the same way." Mr McKay ruled out suicide because his older son had just resumed a relationship with Michelle McAllan, the mother of his children, Morgan, aged three, and Drew, two. "He had his life on track, he was working as a road labourer and he

loved his kids. He wouldn't leave them intentionally." Andrew had been drinking beer at 1am on the steps of his home with Ms McAllan and a friend, Paddy Barnes, aged 20, before he started running up and down the pedestrian bridge. He was sitting on the railings when he fell backwards. Mr Barnes grabbed his sleeve but could not save him. There was no traffic on the road. Mr McKay died a short time later

at Glasgow Royal Infirmary, which also received his brother. A report will be sent to the procurator fiscal. Mr Barnes was detained at the same hospital last night after an epileptic fit. Friends said the brothers had been extremely close. "Andrew was spending a lot of time on that bridge, just standing there where his brother died staring into space. He once spent seven hours there," said John McCrudden.

Andrew dreamed last week that his brother was cuddling him, said his father, who called for motorway bridges to be made safer. "The railings should be higher so it's harder for kids to climb up on them." Two months ago Andrew said he did not know how he would cope with the loss of David. "He wasn't just my brother, he was my best friend and we looked out for each other. It's such a waste."

## Grace and primal vigour amid the cultural contrasts

Review

Tim Ashley

Harry Partch/Elliott Carter  
Barbican Hall, London

**H**ARRY PARTCH and Elliott Carter, celebrated at the weekend in consecutive Barbican concerts, are two American composers whose works couldn't be further apart and who embody differing, prevailing trends in 20th-century American culture.

Carter, 90 this year (this was his birthday concert), is a Jamesian figure whose music forms a graceful dialogue with European tradition. Partch, who died in 1974, was the ultimate iconoclast who flung aside the entire Western musical canon and struck out on his own. He famously invented his own instruments — a series of contraptions which were post-modern before their time. Pyrex carboys suspended on ropes mutate into delicate sounding bells; aeroplane fuel tanks are turned into gongs; a massive marimba, called a Boo, is made of 60 bamboo tubes; another

is constructed out of light bulbs. The tuning is often microtonal — one invention, a Chromelodeon, is a reed organ tuned to 43 tones to the octave instead of the usual 12. Partch's legacy has been taken over by composer Dean Drummond and his ensemble Newband, who brought these mythic instruments, as well as Partch's and his own music to the UK for the first time. A colossal crowd was amazed by an end result that seemed almost multimedia, fusing sculpture, installation, performance art and formal concert. Partch's music, full of fiendish rhythms and weird timbre,

has a primal vigour that sweeps you away. The subject matter is sometimes drawn from Greek mythology: Daphne metamorphosing into a tree; Castor and Pollux, the twins who ascended to the sky to form the constellation Gemini. The latter, combining teasing rhythms with sensual textures, is probably his finest piece. Drummond's music is more reflective, at times erotic. In a *Dance Of The Seven Veils*, there is an instrument called Juststroke — aluminium rods which produce a crystalline twanging sound — which, after the veils have been shed,

the male player fondles suggestively, as the rest of the music sinks into detumescence round it. Elliott Carter was present and on wonderful form at his birthday bash. When he appeared on the podium, he waved his walking stick in the air triumphantly. The programme consisted of some of his finest recent music: *The Arditi Quartet* played his elusive, difficult 5th String Quartet, then were joined by the pianist Ursula Oppens for the London premiere of his *Piano Quintet* — a richly ironic, beautifully textured piece in which the pl-

ano's percussive staccato tries (and fails) to undermine the lyricalism of the strings. After the interval came Carter's *Symphonia*, the vast orchestral triptych, of which the individual sections have been appearing since 1964. The BBC Symphony Orchestra under Oliver Knussen played as if their lives depended on it. The *Symphonia* is Carter's masterpiece. Its shattering central movement, the *Adagio tenebroso*, inspired by a visit in the 1920s to the battlefields of the first world war, is like a reflective summary of this violent century.

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After a late breakfast on Sunday morning, they left to visit the Statue of Christ but were prevented from doing so by a traffic jam. They went to Santa Teresa, Rio's equivalent of Montmartre, to visit an art museum and had lunch in a small restaurant. Mr Dowle accompanied Mr Mandelson, who at the time was minister without portfolio, his elevation to the trade department coming the following week, to a reception at 5pm hosted by the Brazilian ambassador to Britain, Rubens Barbosa, at his mother-in-law's home, and at 9pm to a dinner attended by politicians, businessmen and diplomats. They arrived back at Mr

Dowle's home at 1am and Mr Mandelson flew out at 7.30 that morning to Brasilia.

Mr Dowle, who said he continued to enjoy the full confidence of the British Council, said he would extend the same invitation to other politicians that he knew and liked from his days at Westminster. He described references to Mr de Silva, who had been dubbed "Fabulous Fabricio", as untrue and libellous. His partner was a respected journalist who spoke five languages. Punch is owned by Mohamed Al Fayed, who also owns Harrods. Mr Dowle and Mr Mandelson discussed using the magazine but decided against in order not to give it more publicity.



**A Lib Dem spokeswoman denied a vote against the Queen's Speech would be a signal from disgruntled MPs angry over closer ties with Labour announced by Mr Ashdown**

## Mandelson fury over gay smear

continued from page 1

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Det Supt Ray Mallon, one of eight suspended officers, has still not been interviewed by the Police Complaints Authority, a year after he was forced off the job. PHOTOGRAPH: TONY BARTHOLOMEW

## 'I will never retire on medical grounds. I would rather be sacked'

**E**XACTLY a year ago it all went badly wrong for Superintendent Ray Mallon. The man who had achieved celebrity as Britain's toughest cop was suspended for allegedly leaking information relating to a wide-ranging corruption inquiry into the Cleveland police force, and for engaging in "alleged activity which could be construed as criminal conduct". He strenuously denies any wrongdoing, writes Peter Hetherington.

With mystery surrounding his abrupt removal, supporters quickly gathered a 30,000-signature petition calling for his reinstatement — and the man himself developed a sideline as a weekly columnist for the Northern Echo.

One year on, he has still not been interviewed by a Police Complaints Authority-supervised inquiry, which has widened its remit to include allegations of "corruption and malpractice" within the Cleveland force. Earlier this month, after another eight-month internal inquiry, Mr Mallon was cleared of fiddling his expenses but rapped over the knuckles about his paperwork.

Asked why it had taken so long to interview him, the PCA would only say: "Senior officers are normally interviewed towards the end of an investigation." Speaking at length for the first time since his suspen-

sion, Mr Mallon was in little mood for compromise. "There are people who have tried to fuel scurrilous stories and I will not forgive them... I know who they are and when the time is right those people will answer."

He is determined to return as a superintendent, if not to his old job. "Some things in life are non-negotiable and this is one of them. I will never retire on medical grounds. I would rather be sacked than retire on medical grounds. But I'll not be sacked. I'll be there as long as it takes."

"Initially I am fighting to be reinstated to Cleveland Police, where I should be, and when I'm reinstated then together with a lot of other people [I] will lobby the chief constable [Barry Shaw] to place me back in my old job. Why should I suffer when I've done nothing wrong?"

He claims "massive" support from the rank and file of the force, and says he has conducted his own investigation into the circumstances surrounding his suspension. "I've spoken to many people and absorbed masses of information and [the PCA inquiry] only knows half the story. I've just sat there and let people ring me and tell me everything they know... I've been very busy and got more than a reasonable explanation for everything."

# Cleveland police inquiry widens

46 officers under investigation for corruption and alleged supply of drugs in return for confessions

Peter Hetherington

**A**N INQUIRY into allegations that two detectives supplied heroin to gain confessions in the Middlesbrough area has expanded into the highest investigation currently under way by the Police Complaints Authority.

More than a year after the two were suspended from the Cleveland force, 46 officers are under investigation and more than 200 separate complaints have been made, the Guardian has learned.

Under the direction of the Chief Constable of Warwickshire, Andrew Timpon, 35 officers — mainly from Cleveland — are examining allegations of "corruption

and malpractice" within the force, and the alleged supply of drugs for confessions.

The force has also been beset by a string of other problems — most recently the use of its sports and social club mini-bus on duty-free runs to Calais. Cheap drink was then allegedly sold at police headquarters. Two detectives have been reprimanded and fined £1,000 by Customs and Excise.

The PCA said its inquiry had so far led to the suspension of eight officers, including Det Supt Ray Mallon, the former head of Middlesbrough CID. A year after he was sus-

pended on full pay, he has yet to be interviewed by the inquiry and is demanding his job back. His case has been taken up by the Police Superintendents' Association.

The PCA said the inquiry, believed to cost £1.5 million so far, had been widened after new allegations were made. "A very serious picture is emerging," a spokesman said.

With little sign of it drawing to a close, concern about costs are rising. Lord MacKenzie, a Labour peer and former president of the Superintendents' Association, is said to have voiced serious concerns to the Home Office.

Stung by criticism surrounding the cost and conduct of the inquiry, the PCA said: "There are people who are interested in undermining the investigation and we are sick of it."

Some criticism has surrounded the PCA's appointment last year of Chief Supt Kevin Pitt, a former close colleague of Ray Mallon, as chief investigating officer under Mr Timpon. Critics are also unhappy with the large number of Cleveland officers involved in investigating the conduct of colleagues.

But the PCA responded: "We have no doubts about

Kevin Pitt's suitability. We have been criticised on cost grounds, but the cost would be very much higher if 29 officers were brought in from outside." However, six officers from Northamptonshire, Mr Timpon's former force, are part of the inquiry team.

After the initial suspensions, Richard Brunstrom, an assistant chief constable in Cleveland, said the force had the fullest confidence in Mr Mallon. Mr Mallon, who claimed he was brought in to clean up the force, said he had found "indiscipline, called in about 50 officers and told them: 'It ends here, it ends now... Any off-

icer who goes outside the rules will not be supported."

But unsigned letters expressing concern, believed to be from a senior police officer, have been sent to people in the area. The letters have complained of "unfair pressure" being placed on officers to "get results", and of others being afraid to come forward with evidence to the PCA inquiry.

One letter suggested that an officer who offered to co-operate with the inquiry had his car sprayed with the word "grass" and was subsequently threatened.

The Cleveland force has

been beset by problems since the two detectives were suspended in October last year in the drugs-for-confessions affair, which led to several Crown Court cases being thrown out because police evidence was found to be unsafe.

Last year two officers were jailed for assaulting a man in an off-duty night club brawl. And a month ago, the force had to discipline two officers taking the social club mini-bus on 12 trips to France for cut-price drink.

The PCA will neither admit nor deny that members of the inquiry team were involved in buying the drink.

## Saddam's brother returns home

David Sharrock, Middle East Correspondent

**T**HE half-brother of President Saddam Hussein of Iraq was reported to be returning to Baghdad last night, ending months of speculation that he was on the verge of defecting.

Barzan al-Tikriti, the former Iraqi ambassador to the United Nations' European headquarters, flew from Geneva to Amman yesterday, telling eyewitnesses quoted by Reuters news agency that he was going to Baghdad. He is widely believed to be on bad terms with President Saddam's son Uday, who may have had a role in terminating Mr Barzan's Geneva position in August.

In an interview with the Saudi newspaper Ashraq al-Awsat last month, Mr Barzan hinted that his replacement in Geneva, a protégé of Uday, was not sufficiently qualified. Mr

Barzan has openly opposed the grooming of Uday as President Saddam's successor.

Uday is said by Iraqi exiles to have been linked to the murder of two other relatives, General Hussein Kamel al-Majid and the general's brother, Colonel Saddam Kamel, only a few days after they returned to Baghdad, three years ago. They had been pardoned for seeking asylum abroad.

However, unlike Kamel, who had revealed details of President Saddam's military programme and threatened to topple him, Mr Barzan has remained loyal. In recent interviews he stressed that he was only staying in Geneva as his wife was in hospital suffering from a particularly virulent form of cancer. Last week he buried her.

But while Mr Barzan may have received assurances that he is safe to return to Iraq, it seems clear he was reluctant to leave Geneva.

The defections of Kamel



Barzan al-Tikriti: Opposed grooming of Saddam's son

punished his son by setting fire to a garage where Uday kept a collection of sports cars. He was incensed by the defections, even more so when Kamel began calling for his overthrow and fed details of Iraq's chemical and nuclear programmes to the United States.

Meanwhile an Iraqi opposition leader said President Bill Clinton's plan to give Iraq dissidents more than \$60 million to topple President Saddam will not succeed, because more than money is needed to oust him.

Changing the regime "needs real efforts from inside Iraq, and co-operation among the army, tribal people and the effective Sunni, Shi'ite and Kurdish powers," Mohammed Baghi al-Bakri, leader of an Iranian-based Shi'ite Muslim group called the Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, was quoted as saying in the Arabic daily Al-Raya yesterday.

## Folkestone lit for first Joyeux Noël

John Eazard

**T**HE FIRST hint of a Gallic takeover came when Eurotunnel began advertising the vehicle shuttle service which starts at Folkestone as it shuttles.

Yesterday it was announced that the town's civic Christmas is effectively turning into Noël. France is to take over organising it for the historic but financially embarrassed Kent port at a bargain price.

Tomorrow 14 French

council workmen will cross to their twin town from Boulogne bearing four truckloads of gifts. These include six 20 foot-high Christmas trees laden with artificial snow, woodland sprays painted white and gold, garlands, coloured balls and white fairy lights.

They will festoon Folkestone civic centre and main shopping street in a scheme designed by Boulogne council's head of parks and gardens, Louis Djala. In confirmation that things are cheaper across the Channel, they will do it for £7,000 in contrast to the

£45,000 Folkestone would have needed for the job.

In Folkestone, this setback for chauvinism is being treated as a triumph for *amitié cordiale*. "I believe we have got a bargain," its French-born town centre manager, Philippe Esclasse, said yesterday. "We will be able to use the lights and some of the painted sprays again next year."

The move follows several disappointing festive seasons during which the Kent town's lights and decorations have been criticised as amateurish and feeble.

This year it managed to get only £5,000 from Shepway district council of the £45,000 it wanted in grants. The town centre management committee stumped up another £2,000. Mr Esclasse mentioned the problem to Mr Djala. Boulogne won a prize last year as best decorated town in northern France.

"To my surprise he agreed to help," Mr Esclasse said. "It is clear from his designs that we are getting real flair — the visual creation of a real artist."

"As they say in France, it will be a Joyeux Noël."

But at Block 4, there was a quiet, terrible reality. In a stark room, human hair is piled up like a mountain. Shaven from Jews as they were led to gas chambers, much of it grey now, turned so by time. But I searched for a trace of red or colour, as one looks for some reminder that one's family was here. Alex Brummer visits the killing fields of Auschwitz

## G2 cover story

BT

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# DNA embryo test to wipe out defects

Sarah Hall

A HIGHLY-sensitive DNA test — hailed as a scientific breakthrough — has been developed to prevent chromosomally abnormal embryos from being used during fertility treatment.

The new technique will reveal almost every genetic disorder, and so ensure defective embryos are not implanted.

The chances of conception should then increase and the risk of miscarriage be reduced. At present, half of all embryos used in IVF treatment are chromosomally abnormal, and just one in four result in pregnancy.

The technique — which was immediately condemned by pro-life campaigners as "pure eugenics" — differs from current pre-implantation screening in that it can test up to 10 chromosomes, instead of only two.

Ian Findlay, the molecular biologist who developed it, said: "This dramatically extends the range of diagnostic tests we can do on embryos. At the moment, we can only test for gender, Down's syndrome and a few single gene disorders such as cystic fibrosis. By looking at 10 chromosomes, we can test for almost any genetic disorder, and we'll be able to look at a whole range at the same time."

The single-cell test — which should be available within the year — also breaks new ground in providing a "genetic fingerprint" for the embryo, ensuring it is this, and not the mother's genes or contamination in the test tube, which is being screened.

Developed along the same lines as conventional DNA testing, but 1,000 times more sensitive, it allows scientists to confirm their diagnosis on the day of testing. "With current techniques, you only have one shot, but here we

can do the test on the same cell five or six times and so be much more sure of our diagnosis," Dr Findlay, of Leeds University, said.

He added that, in the future, it could also be applied to pregnant women, enabling embryos to be screened through a blood sample taken from the mother.

Women could then learn if the embryo had Down's syndrome, or other chromosomal disorders, at a far earlier stage than the 14-16 weeks at which an amniocentesis test is taken, and swift results would ensure they did not have to wait the present two or three weeks for diagnosis.

Geeta Nargund, head of the Diana Princess of Wales Centre for Reproductive Medicine at St George's Hospital, in Tooting, south London, which hopes to use the test as soon as it is validated, described it as "a real breakthrough in trying to pick healthy embryos".

She added: "At present, a significant number of IVF embryos — up to 50 per cent — are chromosomally abnormal and that's a major reason for failure of conception or early miscarriage."

But Josephine Quintavalle, of the pressure group Comment on Reproductive Ethics, said: "This is pure eugenics. The whole concept of grading embryos is appalling. The technique may be absolutely brilliant, but they're doing nothing but destroying. It's a search-and-kill technique."

Dr Findlay, who developed the test after working closely with the forensic science service, insisted: "All we are doing is giving patients a choice because there are many mothers out there who could not cope with having an affected child."

He said he was having a very late abortion at 20 weeks. Discovering an abnormality when the embryo is just three days old, and before it has been implanted in the mother, will be much less traumatic.

## Care reforms backlash threat

David Brindle, Social Services Correspondent

MINISTERS are being warned they risk a backlash if they take too much power from local government in measures due out today to tighten controls on social services.

Local authority leaders say they must be allowed continued discretion over services and are not prepared to be "just an arm of the central state".

The warning comes ahead of the publication today of the long-awaited social services white paper, which will set out a new inspection system for nursing, health and domestic care and will start the process of regulating social care workers.

The document will also lay down a clear framework of performance standards for social services departments, linking funding to achievement of benchmarks in areas such as the welfare of children in care.

Most of the proposals have been trailed in advance, or even detailed in earlier white papers. The process is expected to begin with qualified social workers, extending later to others among the million-strong workforce.

As there are no plans for legislation on the white paper, it will be at least two years before any of the statutory changes take effect.

## Mandelson seeks to put mergers out of politics

Nicholas Watt, Political Correspondent

PETER Mandelson is taking steps to distance himself from the highly sensitive area of company mergers after the failure of his £223 million bid for Manchester United.

Stung by criticism over his role in the proposed takeover, the Trade and Industry Secretary has ordered his officials to draw up a paper which will examine ways of placing decisions outside the political arena.

Mr Mandelson, who recently refused the BSkyB bid to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, says he wants the whole issue to be put under a "microscope" to ensure that mergers are seen to be dealt with fairly.

He will publish a green paper in January which will recommend a series of options for reforming his untrammeled powers over mergers. Under the present system, the director general of the Office of Fair Trading (OFT)

national standards and a national strategy, but our big concern is that they must be delivered in a way that fits in with local authorities' arrangements. If the style of the strategy is over-centralised, that will be unfortunate."

The Government has much stronger centralising instincts than the Conservative administration, he believed. Councils would have to submit plans for improving social care, approval of which would be a condition of funding.

"What we don't want to be is just an arm of the central state such as health authorities," said Mr Ransford, the chief executive of North Yorkshire's local authority. "We don't want to be local administration, we want to be local government."

Under the white paper plans, inspection of care services will be taken from local and health authorities and put in the hands of a new, regional inspectorate.

Ministers will also move towards fulfilling their commitment to set up a social care council to regulate care workers. The process is expected to begin with qualified social workers, extending later to others among the million-strong workforce.

As there are no plans for legislation on the white paper, it will be at least two years before any of the statutory changes take effect.

## Sex abuse risk of poor children

David Brindle, Social Services Correspondent

PAEDOPHILES often seek out victims from deprived backgrounds because they are more vulnerable and less likely to be seen as credible witnesses, according to a study by the NSPCC.

Children from ethnic minority groups may be especially at risk because of language difficulties, sexual taboos and deference to professionals.

The study is based on 20 cases of "complex" organised sexual abuse in London. Its recommendations represent the first good-practice guide for those investigating such abuse.

In one case, a paedophile ring of five men and a woman preyed on children on a poor estate, "providing" them with sweets, money, toys, alcohol, pornography — and, most significantly, attention.

All six were jailed, though only after a series of trials. In a second case, however, a middle-class man strongly suspected of abusing boys from poor backgrounds was never brought to trial.

The man would tour working-class districts in search of boys whom he would cultivate and organise in a self-policing hierarchy headed by a "top dog".

Many such victims had a history of trouble with the authorities, making them less likely to betray an abuser and less likely to be taken seriously by police and courts.

In three of the cases there was evidence that abusers had focused on children from ethnic minorities. Assumptions included a lesser likelihood of sex being discussed within their families and a greater reluctance to make abuse allegations against professionals.

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In three of the cases there was evidence that abusers had focused on children from ethnic minorities. Assumptions included a lesser likelihood of sex being discussed within their families and a greater reluctance to make abuse allegations against professionals.

Jim Harding, NSPCC director, said: "Organised abusers are single-minded and relentless in their abuse of children. We all need guidance on this pressing issue. We have to have a more organised response to organised abuse."

The study, called *Grappling with Smoke*, says much organised abuse is often detected only by accident.

At the time, civil judges passed such cases to the military courts which promptly dismissed them, arguing they fell under an amnesty enacted by the general's regime in 1978. The cases will inch their way through the legal system, but few expect to ever see the former dictator in the dock.

An appellate judge, Juan Guzman Tapia, is currently in the "discovery" stage of the 11 suits, an investigation made prior to determining if the charges merit proceeding with. He said in December he would try to interview General Pinochet, but his remark was made in the immediate aftermath of Gen Pinochet's arrest in London.

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## Demo backs hunger strike

Sarah Hall

MORE than 300 animal rights campaigners demonstrated yesterday outside a farm housing monkeys allegedly used for vivisection.

The protest was also in support of Barry Horne, who has been transferred to hospital from prison while on the 55th day of a hunger strike aimed at pressuring the Government to set up a royal commission to investigate vivisection.

Surrounded by police in the West Sussex village of Small Dole, supporters of Save the Shrews and Monkeys (SSM) waved banners linking their cause to Horne, given an 18-year sentence last year for arson costing £2 million.

The Home Office, which last week announced an immediate ban on the use of animals for testing cosmetics, has said it was "not prepared to allow policy to be dictated by blackmail".

Animal rights activists in Sussex yesterday show their support for hunger striker Barry Horne

PHOTOGRAPH: TIM OGDEN

## Chile's long search for justice

Elizabeth Love in Santiago

AN UNDERTAKING to process 11 lawsuits lodged in Chile against Augusto Pinochet for torture, killings and disappearances during his regime is a victory of sorts for his opponents.

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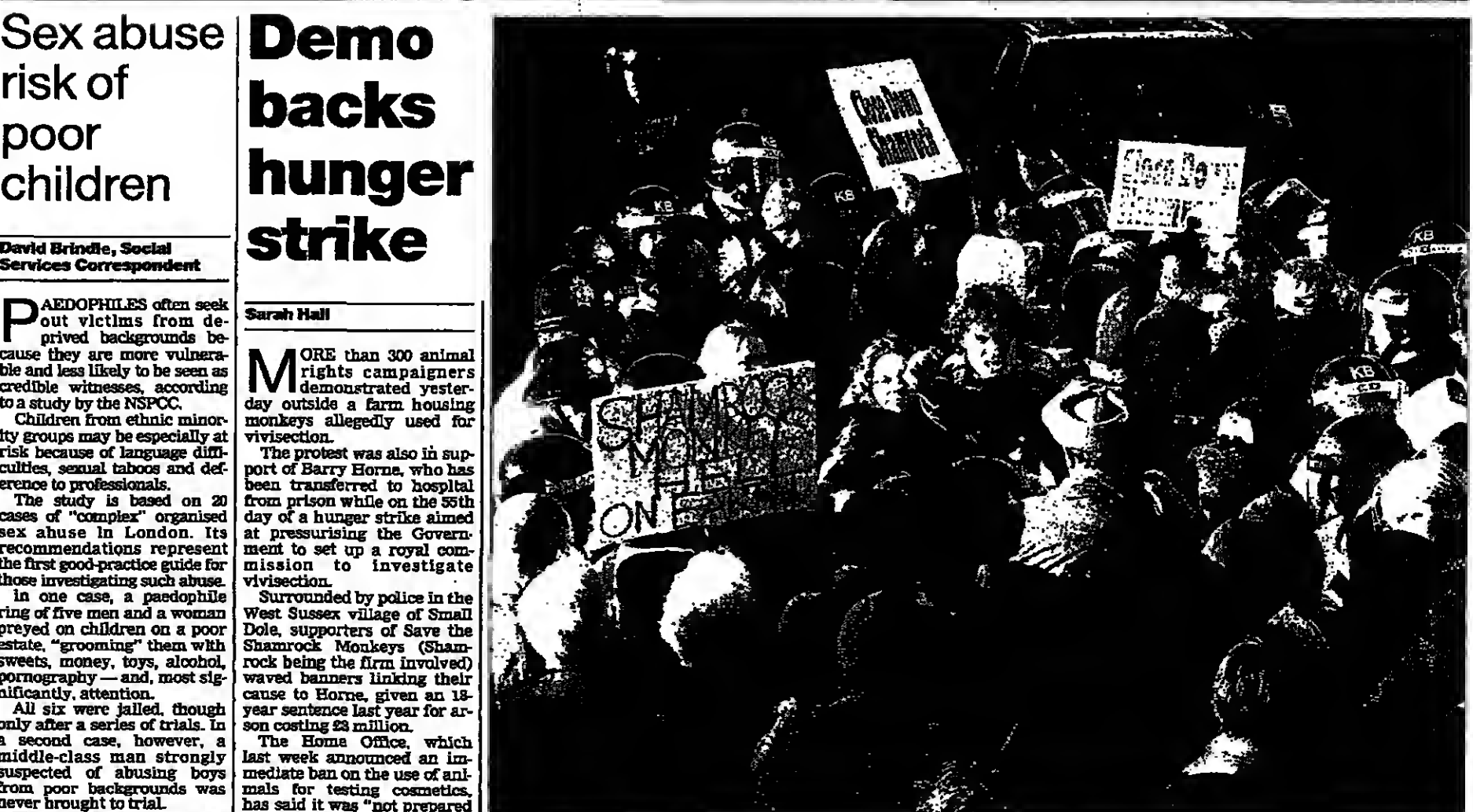
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صكزا من المرحلين

# Ex-Red Arrows leader killed in plane crash

Geoffrey Gibbs

**A** FORMER leader of the RAF's elite Red Arrows aerobatics team was one of two men killed when a 50-seater passenger plane spiralled out of control and plunged into a Devon hillside, it emerged yesterday.

The pilot and navigator of the four-engine Dash 7 aircraft were killed when the plane crashed near Ashburton on the southern edge of Dartmoor on Saturday while on a test flight from Guernsey airport. No passengers or other crew were on board.

As air accident investigators sifted through the wreckage yesterday to recover the black box flight recorder, police named those killed as Captain Raymond Loverseed, aged 66, of Chichester, West Sussex, and Adam Saunders, 72, of Toronto, Canada.

Captain Loverseed led the Red Arrows display team from December 1970 to November 1971.

He continued to fly after retiring from the air force



Raymond Loverseed when he was an RAF pilot in 1965. He died with Canadian navigator Adam Saunders

and had twice cheated death in air accidents. In 1984 a Buffalo transport plane he was flying crash-landed at Farnborough air show.

In 1987 he crash-landed in an air-zero temperatures in Newfoundland when his Piper Cherokee was hit by an ice storm. It plunged into pine trees, tearing off both wings.

He survived for 18 hours with a badly injured foot until a Canadian helicopter winched him to safety.

The Civil Aviation Authority said yesterday that to hold a commercial pilot's licence the two men would have needed a medical examination every six months from age 40. The age limit for flying an aircraft carrying fee-paying passengers is 65.

But a CAA spokesman said that as this was a test flight with no passengers the two would have been entitled to fly provided they had passed their medical tests and held

the appropriate licence to pilot the Dash 7.

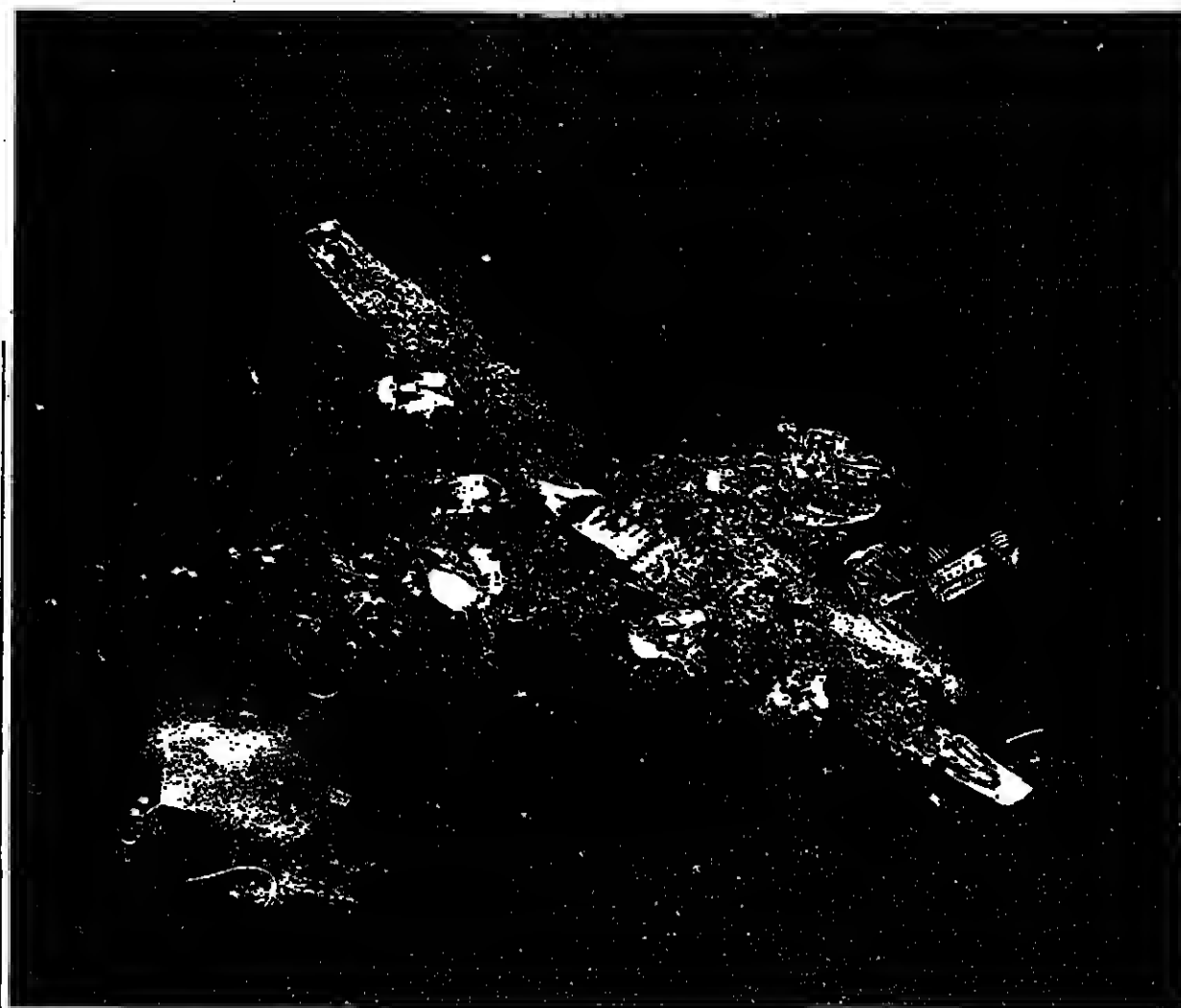
The turbo-prop aircraft, owned by GNE Leasing of the Virgin Islands, took off from Guernsey at 9.17am on Saturday and had been due back 90 minutes later.

Air traffic controllers at Exeter airport lost contact with the plane when it was four miles west of Teignmouth on the coast. Devon and Cornwall Police received more than 20 calls from residents and motorists on the A38 as the aircraft lost height and disappeared from view.

Witnesses reported seeing the plane go into a spin before exploding in a field north of the town.

Farmer Roger Parker, who watched it fly over his property, said the pilot must have turned it to avoid the town and the A38. "If he hadn't done that it could have been awful."

The Dash 7, built by the Canadian company Bombardier, has what aviation specialists say is an excellent safety record. It is popular among regional operators because of its short take-off capability.



Wreckage of the Dash 7 passenger aircraft after the crash at the weekend near Ashburton, Devon

PHOTOGRAPH MARC HILL

## Shayler facing lifetime abroad

Richard Norton-Taylor

**D**AVID Shayler, the MI5 renegade freed from a French jail, faces the prospect of spending the rest of his life abroad after government lawyers told him he would not get blanket immunity from prosecution if he returned to Britain.

Roland Phillips, a Treasury solicitor, has written to Mr Shayler's lawyer, John Wadham, saying that "any negotiations about civil proceedings could not extend to the granting of immunity".

Mr Shayler was released from prison this month after a French court rejected the Government's extradition request on the grounds that it was politically motivated.

Mr Shayler has since indicated he is prepared to negotiate a deal with the Government whereby he would not make any further revelations without permission.

He said yesterday: "There are imaginative solutions to problems if the Government is prepared to apply itself... What I want to do is get back into the UK without being imprisoned for telling the truth."

He still had things to say about the security services, but was prepared to let the Government vet any manuscript, or give his evidence to Parliament's intelligence and security committee, he told the BBC's Breakfast With Frost programme yesterday.

"It seems to me they are trying to push me into a corner," he said. "I don't want to be pushed into that corner. As I have said, I am not in the business, at the moment, of making new revelations, so I would ask the Government to reconsider."

Mr Shayler said he was considering writing fiction or turning to journalism to try to make a living.

Mr Wadham was involved in long talks with Mr Phillips after Mr Shayler had made his original disclosures about MI5 activities to the Mail on Sunday newspaper last year, and before he was arrested in Paris on August 1, almost a year later.

The talks broke down after MI5 insisted it would demand copyright on anything he said about the agency.

However, the Government yesterday appeared to leave the door to negotiations open.

"We are prepared to discuss whatever he wants to discuss," a Home Office spokesman said.

There is a difference between the principle of blanket immunity from prosecution and a specific decision to drop a prosecution in a particular case.

Mr Wadham, who is also director of the civil liberties organisation Liberty, said: "Mr Shayler has not disclosed anything since his release, as far as I'm concerned it can't be in the public interest to continue with the prosecution."

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# Israel faces dilemma on Lebanon occupation

David Sharrock  
in Jerusalem

ISRAELI planes and artillery attacked suspected Hizbullah sites in south Lebanon yesterday as the cabinet reviewed ways to respond to the increasing toll of its soldiers in the zone Israel occupies to protect its northern flank.

Several ministers called for military strikes on Beirut's power and water supplies in retaliation for the killing of four Israeli soldiers by Hizbullah last week. Seven have died in 11 days.

The cabinet security committee met after the prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, returned from visiting wounded soldiers in the north.

"We are looking for an arrangement in which we can achieve that objective of protecting northern Israel without our presence in Lebanon," Mr Netanyahu said. He added that the cabinet would discuss minimising its casualties, not withdrawing its troops.

The foreign minister, Ariel Sharon, has proposed a phased withdrawal, offset by punitive counter-raids if Hizbullah attacks.

He is supported by at least two ministers, according to Hebrew newspapers, but military chiefs oppose him. Public opinion is swinging further away from staying in south Lebanon.

"Israel wants peace negotiations with Syria... but we cannot link negotiations with Syria with what is happening in Lebanon," Mr Sharon said. Damascus wants back the strategic Golan Heights, which Israel captured in the 1967 Middle East war, and has little interest in reducing the pressure on Israeli forces in Lebanon by reining in Hizbullah.

Asked whether he believed that Israel could get out of its Lebanon quagmire without Syrian involvement, Mr Netanyahu said: "We will discuss this in the cabinet. I can say one thing: we know Syria's involvement and responsibility."

Washington has urged Israel and Lebanon to "show maximum restraint". Mr Netanyahu confirmed his willingness to withdraw,

provided the Lebanese army was deployed to prevent Hizbullah incursions into Israel, but he said Israel would continue to fight Hizbullah in the nine-mile-deep zone until a deal was signed.

Talks between Israel and Syria on the future of the Golan have been frozen for nearly three years. In April Israel accepted the 1978

United Nations resolution requiring it to withdraw from Lebanon but said it required Lebanese guarantees about Hizbullah and the safeguarding of its militia allies, the South Lebanese Army. Syria and Lebanon say an Israeli withdrawal must be unconditional.

Yesterday two Israeli planes fired rockets at sus-

pected positions of Hizbullah and Syrian-backed Amal fighters in the Arisha region, near the occupied zone. There were no immediate reports of casualties.

Security sources said Israeli forces had earlier shelled the Hizbullah stronghold of Iqlim al-Toufah and areas east of the occupation zone. On Saturday Israeli ar-

tillery hit a derelict army barracks near the southern town of Nabatieh.

The 1996 "Grapes of Wrath" operation was Israel's last big offensive in Lebanon. More than 100 civilians were killed in the 17-day blitz when Israeli shells hit a UN refugee camp in Qana.

"Sometimes we win some, and sometimes the enemy

does. With the grace of Allah, we've managed to jump ahead of Israel's sophisticated security this time," a senior Hizbullah official, Hussein Khalil, said in Beirut.

"We've managed to put them in their place. We've taught them a lesson. Israelis don't pay attention to their daily crimes against Lebanon or repent, until they get lessons."



Israeli women lobby the prime minister's office in Jerusalem yesterday, urging the withdrawal of troops from south Lebanon. Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon (above) proposes a phased pullout but other ministers want retaliatory attacks on Lebanese infrastructure

MAIN PHOTOGRAPH BY  
EVAL WARSZAWSKY



A victory parade for Sonia Gandhi as her supporters celebrate in New Delhi, where the Congress party regained control of the state assembly in the first test of public opinion since the Hindu nationalist BJP took power at the federal level in March

## India puts Hindu party on notice

Suzanne Goldenberg  
in New Delhi

THE Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party, which came to power in India eight months ago promising clean government, had its claims roundly rejected by voters at the weekend, when it suffered a stunning defeat in state assembly elections in four states.

The opposition Congress party captured two-thirds of the seats in the Delhi legislative assembly, which the BJP controlled, and scored an even more dramatic victory by dislodging the BJP in the desert state of Rajasthan.

Congress retained its control of the central state of Madhya Pradesh, but lost the tiny north-eastern state of Mizoram to a regional party.

"They came up with great

dreams and large hopes and great promises, and none of them has been fulfilled," said Sheila Dixit, the local Congress leader, as party activists danced through the streets of New Delhi.

The results were seen as a triumph for the Italian-born Congress party president Sonia Gandhi, the widow of its assassinated one-time leader.

They are certain to embolden those of her followers who are anxious to hasten the collapse of the eight-month-old BJP coalition.

Ms Gandhi said last night: "I feel the message is quite clear. We have gained a lot of strength."

Although Ms Gandhi has advocated patience and asked Congress to wait for the BJP to succumb to internal feuds and wrangling in its coalition of nearly 20 parties, many of



Prime Minister Vajpayee: Unfulfilled promises

her followers do not share her patience. The party has ruled India for most of the 51 years since independence, and it has not taken easily to a spell in opposition.

Ms Gandhi told the Star television network that her

party would not seek an immediate vote of confidence when parliament reopens today.

"We ought not to rush into sudden situations. I wouldn't like to do so,"

Despite Ms Gandhi's reluctance to try to form yet another unstable coalition, or to precipitate the third election in less than three years, the pressure on the BJP is bound to intensify.

The BJP prime minister, Atal Bahari Vajpayee, admitted that the voters seemed to want a change, but said the results would have no bearing on the stability of his coalition.

But the recriminations were under way last night as its allies blamed the BJP for failing to appreciate the public's anger at rising food prices.

Although the BJP tried to appeal to national pride by

claiming credit for the nuclear tests conducted in Rajasthan in May, the voters had a much more prosaic concern: the price of food staples such as onions and potatoes, which increased eightfold in the weeks before the elections.

"This is a verdict of the people. There were problems that could have been avoided," said Atal Bahari Vajpayee, which has been supporting the BJP.

"We warned that price rises are going to touch the public. We are alarmed to see that a government running a coalition is not taking care of the allies."

Mr Vajpayee is also expected to come under increasing pressure from hardliners in his own party who in recent months have coalesced around the home minister, L. K. Advani.

## Shock at police acquittal

THE trial of 10 policemen charged with killing 21 Rio shantytown dwellers ended in disappointment for human rights observers at the weekend, when all the defendants were acquitted.

In 1993 20 hooded gunmen killed 21 people, including two children and eight members of one family, when they opened fire on residents of the Vigario Geral slum.

It was one of the bloodiest episodes of recent years in Brazil and focused international attention on police violence in Rio de Janeiro, where official statistics show that, on average, more than one person a day is killed by serving police.

Only two of the 52 policemen originally charged with the massacre have been convicted, in trials last year. Charges against six others were dropped owing to lack of evidence. No trial date has been set for the other suspects.

Ignacio Cano, a researcher at Rio's Higher Institute for Religious Studies, said the acquittals were not surprising as he was unaware of any convictions of military police in recent years. All but one of the defendants were military police.

He said: "Most cases don't

even come to trial. However, the fact that this case has come so far and at least a few policemen have been sentenced shows that [the justice system] is far better than it was. But [Brazil] has still got a long way to go. The degree of impunity here is still so high."

The state of Rio de Janeiro is one of the most violent in the world, with 8,000 murders a year among a population of 13 million. So far this year police have admitted killing about 60 people a month, though Human Rights Watch estimates there could be as many as 3,000 killings by police a year. This compares with an average of 30 police killings a year in New York.

The rate of police killings doubled four years ago after the state introduced "bravery awards" — cash incentives and promotion — for police involved in shoot-outs. The awards were stopped this year under pressure from human rights organisations.

The culture of violence is rooted in the vast social inequalities within the city of Rio, where hundreds of thousands of people live in extreme poverty in shantytowns favelas, which are often controlled by armed drug gangs. There is a belief among

many police chiefs that violence must be fought with violence. Officers, who are poorly trained and whose wages are only \$50 a week, have been seen to be easily corruptible. Many are involved with organised crime.

The Vigario Geral massacre is widely thought to have been an act of revenge for the killing of four policemen the previous night in an ambush by drug traffickers from the favela in Rio's North Zone.

The key evidence was taped conversations inside a jail, in which other defendants said the 10 were not involved. Television showed the verdict, announced by the presiding judge Jose Geraldo Antonio, being greeted by utter disbelief from victims' relatives.

Vern Dias Carneiro, president of the Association of Relatives of the Victims of Violence, said the result was a shock for the victims' families.

"The tapes, presented as proof, were obviously fabricated," she said. Rubem Cesar Fernandes, co-ordinator of the charity Viva Rio, said: "The prevailing belief was that the defendants would be convicted. Whoever goes to Vigario Geral today knows that the drama there hasn't ended."

## Ex-coup leader leads poll race with 'Third Way' for Venezuela

Christina Hoag in Caracas

FOR millions of poor Venezuelans, Hugo Chávez promises to be a saviour. To investors eager to capitalise on the country's mineral resources and vast oil reserves, he is a threat.

Mr Chávez, a former paratrooper lieutenant-colonel who led a coup attempt in 1992, is the frontrunner in the race for Venezuela's presidential election on December 6.

His blend of nationalism and populist rhetoric, he delights the 76 per cent of Venezuelans who live in poverty while angering the elite.

Mr Chávez, who has a 50 per cent rating in the polls, promises to transform the country if elected. He plans to displace congress, write a new constitution, review privatisation contracts and tighten control over the country's primary source of income, the world's second-biggest oil company, state-owned Petroleos de Venezuela.

With his militaristic red beret that has become his supporters' trademark, Mr Chávez delivers his message to packed rallies: "This is the revolution of the end of the century. We want to take the government out of the hands of the corrupt and put it in the hands of the people."

Mr Chávez says radical changes are needed to wipe out the money-grabbing politicians who have prevented the vast oil wealth from benefiting the people.

For Venezuelans who have seen their standard of living plummet during the past 15 years his message hits home. "There's a lot of money here, but it's in the hands of few," Alfredo Ramirez, an army reservist, said.

The business community, which favours the second-place candidate, the Yale-educated economist and former state governor Henrique Salas Romero, does not think so. Some claim Mr Chávez plans to install himself as a dictator.

Others point to his statements about suspending payments on

the \$22 billion (\$13 billion) foreign debt.

Mr Chávez's popularity has soared since the former independent frontrunner Irene Sáez accepted the endorsement of the Social Christian Party. The former Miss Universe and mayor of a Caracas district has seen her support drop from 38 per cent to 8 per cent because of resentment towards the traditional parties.

In a television interview this week she said: "I have had to pay a high price for the endorsement."

Yesterday leaders of the centre-left Democratic Action dumped their presidential candidate, Luis Alfaro Uzcero, and switched support to Mr Salas Romero in a last-ditch attempt to stop Mr Chávez.

Mr Chávez has had to tone down his extremism to lure moderates whose support he needs to win. Dressing in smart business suits, he says that he is modelling himself on Tony Blair, seeking a Third Way between brutal neo-liberalism and hardline socialism.

## Swiss voters say No to drugs free-for-all

Peter Capella in Geneva

SWISS voters yesterday heeded government advice to reject overwhelmingly a referendum proposal to make the country the first in Europe to legalise all drug consumption.

Despite Switzerland's pioneering policy on drugs, 73.9 per cent voted against the initiative, known as Droleq, which would also have obliged the Swiss authorities to take control of the drugs market by licensing the sale of narcotics within three years.

It would have outlawed drug advertising and taxed hard and soft drugs, with revenues invested in drug prevention and drug abuse programmes. Droleq's initiators, a loose coalition of leftwing groups and hemp growers, had campaigned for four years under the slogan "for a reasonable drug policy".

The campaign appeared to be gathering support when one of the governing parties, the Social Democrats, ignored the leadership and joined the Ecologists in voting to support Droleq.

But in recent weeks the coalition had become resigned to defeat, although the result was far worse than forecast. Campaigners had argued that Droleq would break the illicit market for drugs.

Last year 80 per cent of the country's 44,636 drug-related charges involved possession

rather than dealing. According to official estimates, there are about 30,000 hard-drug users.

Health and judicial authorities opposed Droleq, saying it would turn the country into a European haven for drug traffickers and users.

Support groups were divided, many believing the proposal was ill-timed and too wide-ranging.

Droleq would have destroyed one of the pillars of the national drugs policy that has been used in recent years to stop the growth of "needle parks" in major cities.

Until the mid-1990s thousands of addicts gathered in public parks and disused railway sidings in cities such as Bern and Zurich to buy and

inject hard drugs. In regions with liberal policies, social services distributed clean syringes and consumption was tolerated within a confined area because of the sheer scale of the problem.

But in recent years the sharp rise in drug-related crime led to a clampdown. Regional approaches have been directed by a national policy based on a combination of prevention, social support, clean needles, therapy and repression against a crackdown on dealers.

Last year 70 per cent of Swiss rejected a private initiative by anti-drugs campaigners which was mainly designed to prevent the distribution of heroin to hardened addicts through

special medical centres. Supervised distribution received parliamentary approval after a three-year experiment showed it reduced overdoses, cut crime and allowed many of the 800 participants to find a home and stay in a job.

It is only addicts who are only allowed on the programme as a last resort and nearly two-thirds of them have stayed on the programme for two years.

A government commission suggested decriminalising soft drugs in 1990.

An official survey last week revealed that 27 per cent of people aged 15 to 39 had smoked cannabis at least once, a rise of 11 per cent in 1992.

## Miss World 'raped by travel agent who offered a lift'

THE new Miss World, Linor Abargil, says she endured a two-hour sexual assault last month while in Italy for a fashion show, according to press reports yesterday.

Ms Abargil, who added the Miss World crown to her Miss Israel title on Saturday night, said she was attacked on October 6 in Milan after going to a travel agency to buy a plane ticket to Rome, where she planned to meet her mother before flying home.

The Egyptian owner of the travel agency has been arrested and charged with the rape, the newspapers said.

The man offered to drive her to Rome himself, saying he had

business there and all the flights were booked, the reports added. Shortly after starting out, he pulled off the road, tied her up and assaulted her.

Afterwards he tried to apologise as he drove her back to Milan. Next morning she caught a train to Rome and went with her mother to tell the police what had happened.

The Milan police released details of an assault on an Israeli model at the time, and on Friday confirmed the victim's identity to the Italian state news agency Ansa. The Miss World organiser Julia Morley said that for legal reasons neither she nor Ms Abargil would comment. — AP, London.



Linor Abargil: Suffered two-hour assault while in Italy for a fashion show

Congo rebels

A

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greeted with much scepticism in Zimbabwe: Zimbabwe's Angola, Namibia and Chad are seen as the main beneficiaries of the Congolese rebels and their backers, Uganda and Rwanda.

Although his London visit is a private one, Mr Mugabe is expected to meet some British officials. The land issue is expected to be discussed.

His acquisition orders on 841 white-owned farms pitted him against the policy agreed by Zimbabwe's main aid donors: Britain, the European Union, the United States, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

His government announced them at a conference in Harare in September, but that action on land would not disrupt food production or increase Zimbabwe's already crushing budget deficit, would be done only in consultation with the banks and would be in accordance with the constitution, which protects private property.

The government is trying to find an explanation for the land grab that will satisfy the donors. It has borrowed \$3million (£2 million) the government badly needs to prop up the sinking Ziambabwe dollar, now worth 60 to the pound and expected to collapse. But the IMF funds are not released soon.

accused by Rwanda of genocide and ethnic Tutsi during that conflict, he had refused before the summit to talk to either the rebels or the countries supporting them.

After first denying that any deal had been reached, Mr. Kabila said he would be hammered out. He had been drafted and that he would put his name to it. He said a preliminary agreement should be signed in Lusaka, Zambia, around December 6, but he would be hammered out in Onyango.

But Mr. Kabila warned: "If the rebels attack, if they advance, then we will have to continue to defend ourselves. We are not going to let them take over Uganda." He poured 10,000 troops into his country, and demanded their unconditional withdrawal.

"We are in the crocodile's jaws, and why should we negotiate with the crocodile which is cutting us up?"

In Congo rebel leaders were sceptical of any deal. Wamba dia Wamba, head of the Congo Rally for Democracy, said he had signed the crocodile's hand, but that his forces would fight on since their positions were under constant threat of attack.

"Deals that exclude us were made because they will not be implemented," he said.

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# Comment

## e-mail

David Sharrock  
@Gaza

ON BAGHDAD Street, outside the Koran Clinic for Treating Diseases, my back was killing me again. Sheikh Ziad Tatar sympathised and led me into his consulting room. He had just cured a 22-year-old woman from Beer-sheba of chest pains and headaches and sniffed dismissively when I told him I wasn't a Muslim. "Doesn't matter — the Koran is the strongest medicine there is. It can even cure infidels."

According to Sheikh Ziad, a 59-year-old Gaza, healing is about getting rid of the *djinn* which invade our bodies at vulnerable moments and take up residence.

With his best bedside manner, the sheikh squeezed my cranium. I was worried — was there a *djinn* in me? He thought not. "Someone has envied you in the last two months. They were jealous and a *djinn* breathed into you, blew bad winds into you."

The sheikh put headphones over my ears and the soulful wail of a mazzin filled the room. He told me to raise my hands and I felt my fingertips tingling. Then I was asked to sit up and to stretch out my right palm and squeeze the fingers together. The fingers would force themselves apart, he said, and began praying aloud. They did — and they felt cold and numb. "These are the *djinn* winds leaving you," said the sheikh, bringing the consultation to a close. The pain in my back was gone.

Just to prove this was no one-off fluke with an infidel, he invited me to sit in on his next patient. Ali Hassan Salah, a 19-year-old man, was suffering from night-mares and violent fits. The sheikh began his medicine. Reciting "In the name of the merciful God," he laid an open Koran on the reclining patient. "How are you, what's your name?" "Adza," replied Ali. "That's the *djinn* talking to me, I've established contact, now let's see what he's doing in there," whispered the sheikh.

THEN in a stronger voice he asked rapid-fire questions. "Are you a muslim?" "Yes." "How long have you been with this man?" "Four years." "Does a muslim harm a muslim?" "No." "Are you harming a muslim?" "Yes." "Why?" "For nothing. I regret. I repent." "Okay, I'm not going to beat you, but I want you to go now."

A few minutes more and then silence. A quick spray of holy water on the head and feet and the patient is pronounced cured.

Say it's hocus pocus if you prefer, but Sheikh Ziad Tatar has taught MA students of sociology and psychology at Israel's Ben Gurion University. On occasion, when all else has failed, he has been called on to give treatment at Beer-sheba hospital.

My back is still pain-free — but what happens if it returns? Getting into Gaza isn't always easy. No worries, said the sheikh. "I can cure you over the Internet. ziad@palnet.com."

SHOW SOME  
COMPASSION! LET THE  
FRAIL OLD MAN GO!

GET THE MURDEROUS  
BASTARD BANG TO  
RIGHTS!!



## We're all middle class now and doing nicely, aren't we? Except for the poor

Polly  
Toynbee



BRITAIN has changed. The Office of National Statistics today publishes a new official definition of social class: four of the seven new social bands are defined as middle class. Most of us now, call ourselves, middle class and all the previous official categories have been abolished to reflect this seismic shift. As manual work has shrunk and the service sector mushroomed, the old vision of a mass working class ruled by a tiny elite has gone.

Foreigners still like to caricature us as a deeply class-bound society, obsessed with subtle social niceties in which we size up one another within moments by accent, occupation, origins and education. But such a nation was always a quaint anachronism. She is the aunt we remember from a 1950s childhood, a world away now.

At last we are gradually shedding empty social institutions. The most outrageous of these is the House of Lords. However much mocked, along with the monarchy, an aristocracy with real power has remained a dangerous symbol of a society still dominated by privilege, caste and deference. While Tories cling to these as our "heritage", it makes us an absurdity abroad. Worse, it lingers with a schizoid image of ourselves. Away from them all their ludicrous titles: their continuing presence means we are denied America's self-image of a classless society of opportunity. It was never true of America, but believing it is half the battle for freedom. How can you have an ideology of freedom and equality of opportunity when every-

where we are sucked back into an image of servitude? The new official social classes define three bands of working class or non-working poor — and then four middle-class bands of senior management and, professionals, middle managers, public sector and clerical workers. These great changes have come with a four-fold increase in average incomes, mass home-ownership and a new generation where one in three now goes to university.

But the news is not all good. We are now in danger of imitating some of the worst as well as the best of American class attitudes. The advantage of a mass working-class society with high trade-union membership and some idea of class solidarity was that the poor marched alongside better-paid workers, or at least hung on to their coat-tails, represented by the same political party. To win, politicians had to capture a working-class vote. Now, to win, a party has to catch middle-class Britain — and the poor are only included out of co-operation, over a vote-getting rallying cry. Sometimes fear of crime stirs some sense of obligation to them, though more often it is an extra stick to beat them with.

As average incomes and opportunities rose, so the poor fell behind alarmingly: we are now as unequal a society as we were at the turn of the century, a chilling statistic. Called the underclass by the Tories or the socially excluded by Labour, the 25 per cent left behind by the relentlessly benefit-dependent social housing now have no voice. While PR would at least make each of their votes

worth soliciting for the first time, they will take some persuading to vote after so many years of total exclusion from the political process.

To its great credit, the Government is devoting most of its enthusiasm and money to drawing them back into the mainstream, with training, jobs and more money for those who can't work. But the redistribution all has to be done by stealth, hoping the mass middle class won't notice. Sworn not to use the fairest means — income tax — the Government resorts to back-door means, a cunning windfall tax or a hike of heavily state-subsidised private pensions. So far they've done well, with increases for the working poor in the working families tax credit, the minimum pension guarantee and higher child benefit.

WELFARE reform is also being done by stealth, slice by slice, presented by Alistair Darling as just sensible good house-keeping to his mighty £100 billion budget. Hague taunts Blair, claiming he's bottled out and Frank Field's sackings proves it. But Hague misses the point. Welfare reform is quietly galloping on apace. What looked in the Queen's speech like tinkering with disability and widows' benefits is part of a revolution. Just these small changes will save £1.3 billion to be better used on those who need it most. Step by step, benefit by benefit, eventually the National Insurance system will be demolished and replaced with a system that makes sure every penny the state spends goes to the poorest. Before long the only state insurance will be a

guarantee against poverty — and quite rightly so.

Today's new class banding shows why welfare reform is so urgently needed. Fifty years ago, Beveridge devised NI for a society where universal benefits largely hit their target. Then, to be old was to be poor; now, only a third of pensioners are really poor, with each retiring generation richer. To be sick or unemployed left the mass of people with nothing to fall back on: now not necessarily so. Only universal child benefit still hits the mark: alarming numbers of children are in the poorest households and most families with children are much poorer than the child-free. Taxing it back from higher-tax-rate families means the money saved will increase child benefit by almost £1.

All this redistributes directly from the pockets of the comfortable to those of the poor. Yet oddly, those most vehemently opposed are old Labour — led by Barbara Castle — still operating on the old mass working-class model. But it is the middle classes who stand to lose. If Labour dare not take money from them in income tax, then they'll take it in National Insurance entitlements instead. Now that the middle class is all-powerful, we need a great audit of all state expenditure to see who gets most. Are the poor getting their fair share? In education, savings, mortgages, pensions and travel-to-work subsidies, the middle classes win heavily. While every penny for the poor is hard-earned transparent expenditure, the middle-class welfare state is too well-camouflaged.

If you need hospital treatment, you may be better off in Barcelona

## Lessons of Leonardo

Peter  
Preston



FIRST, true confessions. This column was about to consist of an erudite comparison of VAT rates across Western Europe when, rather suddenly, my younger daughter had her first baby in a hospital high on a hill overlooking Barcelona. It is thus about something rather more human than VAT.

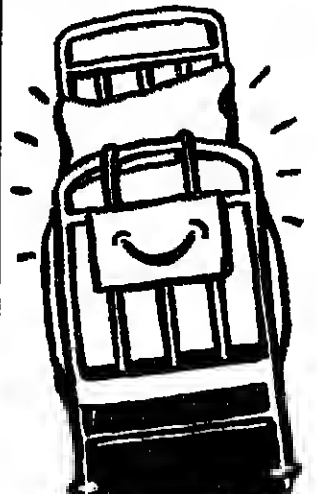
I am beginning to be more experienced in the ways of the Spanish (national) health service than I am in those of the NHS. There was the time that Daughter A and Daughter B needed 27 stitches (in total) when a Coke bottle exploded. The time Daughter B went over the front of a moped into a metal signpost (23 stitches). The time, three years ago, when I tripped in the Passage de Gracia and broke a leg. And now there is Little Leonardo, a wallowing nine and a quarter pounds, necessarily delivered by Caesarian section.

Four different hospitals in four different blinds — and all of them, in their ways, utterly brilliant. The leg was X-rayed and plastered — waiting in line — in four and a half hours door to door, and cost £365. (The 18 stitches I had in Singapore three weeks ago, after an argument with a tree, cost £3,275.20.) My daughter, meanwhile, lies in a private room with an en suite bathroom, television and telephone. Her husband is with her. He has a bed in the same room. One midwife on the case stopped long after her shift because she wanted to see the baby. The bell seems to bring a nurse in 60 seconds flat, and they all come in smiling. The doctors grin and say good morning. The security guard on the hospital gate grins and says good evening. Daughter B would, with a normal birth, have stayed in hospital for three days. The Caesarian means five or six.

Isn't it like that at all. The food I go out to buy for my daughter's husband while he hovers on happy duty isn't more expensive because it carries the weight of VAT; it is, at the margins, rather cheaper than the supermarket at the bottom of my London road.

(And that is a reasonably scientific conclusion, because the Sunday Times, sampling across Europe, produced the same result.) Tesco and Sainsbury's are geared to make profits far beyond normal European gearing: their profits and market share are a definition of their well-being. When M&S staggers, it's a national crisis. Do we simply plunk VAT on top of that particular profit mountain and reach deeper into our pockets? Equally, the children's clothes I spent Saturday afternoon for are no dearer than they seemed, five days before, in the marbled halls of Manchester's new temple of consumerism, the Trafford Centre. Newspapers cost a few pence more, to be sure, but then Spain hasn't had the benefit of Mr Murdoch's price warfare. But books are cheaper, and so is a taxi to the hospital and a metro ride back. Hotels clock in at roughly half the London rate. (Our capital, remember, has lately been declared the most expensive tourist destination in the world.)

How do you construct a rigid thesis from such a bag full of disparities? You can if you want to prove some pre-ordained conclusion, lurching property and employment taxes into one side of the column and leaving the other side blank. You can say that, since Spain's conservative government caught the New Labour bug, jobs have been



The bell seems to bring a nurse in 60 seconds, and they all come in smiling

## Trouble with foreigners

Endpiece  
Roy Hattersley

RAVELLO was closed for winter. The sea was still more blue than grey. And the trees on the mountains which ran down to the water's edge were only streaked with russet and brown. But the men who were replacing the roof on the duomo blew on their fingers every time they touched a freezing terracotta tile, and the piazza below was deserted until the arrival of an English coach with the words "Love Bus" painted along its side.

Among the passengers who spilled out on to the cobbles was a woman with a copy of a weekly newspaper. It contained a story about her grandfather, a Ravello man. Almost 100 years ago, he had left Italy to find fortune. If not fame, in England. He had made and sold ice cream. As soon as I saw the faded photo-

graph — Tuscan hair and waxed moustache — I recognised Antonio, even though I had not heard his name for more than 50 years.

Before the war my grandmother used to sing about him every time she heard the bell which told us that the ice-cream cart had arrived in our road. I was never allowed to stop him and buy one. For it was assumed that, being Italian, he did not observe the rules of health which were essential to the wellbeing of a four-year old Anglo-Saxon.

But I had no doubt his character. "Left me all alone-to. All on my own-o." Like all Latins, he was not to be trusted.

To me, Antonio was the embodiment of all the characteristics which represented his country. Marianne herself, bearing one breast as she strode across the barricades, had been kept from me. So I thought of France as typified by a man on a bicycle with cranks of onions hanging from his

handles. Indeed I possessed a full set of European stereotypes. Dutchmen wore clogs and grew tulips. The Swiss made cuckoo clocks and shot apples off each others' heads. Russians had snow on their boots.

We were no more chauvinistic than our neighbours. My father, who had lived in Rome for seven years, loved Italy and the Italians but he was part of a generation which, when it did not fear foreigners, thought they were funny. When I listen to arguments about Britain's role in the European Union, echoes of those over-confident days ring around my head. We have not managed completely to obliterate the image of Antonio from our minds.

We were brought up to be particularly patronising about southern Italy — aided and abetted by Carlo Levi, who told my generation that Christ Stopped at Eboli. The only town in southern Italy of which we had heard was Naples, where the wife of the

English minister-in-residence (Hamilton by name) had become emotionally attached to a sailor called Nelson. As far as we were concerned, the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies was still ruled by a man who enjoyed blowing up his subjects and had the nickname Bomba.

We were worried about the suffering endured by descendants attempted a more modest form of regulation in the 1920s, the first policeman to direct traffic around the Victor Emmanuel don shop doorways as run over by the three motorcars that crashed into each other.

He would not — in those good old days of Austin, Morris and Humber — have believed that, before the end of the century, Italy would have a thriving motor industry of its own while Britain had become a colonial outpost of the German, Japanese and American automotive empires.

When I first went to Rome in 1955, he warned me to beware of beggars — something which I not previously seen. Now, men and women are sleeping in London shop doorways and Italy's national income per head of population is higher than ours.

I do not describe the errors of my youth in order to denigrate the country of my birth. Like JB Priestley, I would prefer a holiday in Tuscany to one in the Black Country. But if I were to

John Lewis



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**No one ever blamed cricket or rugby for violent behaviour at matches.**

David Davies, Letters

## Straw's decision

It's what he is there for

DAMNED if he do, and damned if he don't. That's supposed to be Jack Straw's fate over the extradition of Senator-for-life Augusto Pinochet. But Home Secretaries are there to take tricky decisions, which is the reason the other great offices of state are safer stepping stones to the premiership (the cyclically-adjusted Chancellorship excepted). The decision on Pinochet is no different in kind from what the Home Secretary's in-tray usually contains, to do with prisoner release or the commutation of sentences. In other words, it's about the politics of justice.

Extradition is political business. Indeed, one of the grounds on which Mr Straw can refuse to allow proceedings to go ahead is his judgment that the case against Pinochet is "political", whatever that might mean. Pessilage about letting the courts have their say cannot conceal that before arrest warrants are issued and at salient points during the judicial process interventions

are there to be made by a man wearing not a wig but a party hat. The boundary between law and politics is getting less distinct; it will get muddier when the new Human Rights Act is cited by judges who — as the Pinochet case shows — are neither clear nor intellectually compelling in their thinking about the state and its powers.

So all Jack Straw is being called upon to do is what he is professional at: politics. Weighing advantages, that is, to persons and party, making calculations that may, indeed ought to encompass values, beliefs and that amorphous thing the national interest. Pinochet's health is a real consideration. It wouldn't do for British proceedings to kill their subject, the adjudication of human rights abuses not generally involving the capital sentence. But there is more to health than doctors' opinions. Forensic medicine applied to a "fitness to stand trial" has proved to be a plastic art. The Chilean foreign minister's "offer" that Pinochet stands trial at home kills the health question: if he is well enough to stand trial there, why not here and in Spain? There are, also, calculations to be made about civil peace in Chile and how we best support, over the long term, the entrenching of participative democracy there without, as at present, the threat of military coup or right-wing revolt. Procedure is going to be all-important

during the next few days. Mr Straw will, if he is wise, seek to protect himself from judicial review, for Pinochet's allies are rich and resourceful. He must forget his earlier student activist self and avoid giving any impression of feeding what, unfortunately, has seemed like a blood lust on the part of former left wingers whose gods failed but whose appetite for Jacobin procedure is unabated. His obligations are now far wider.

The Pinochet case may come to be seen as the labour pains of the birth of a new system of human rights adjudication. It has already helped open up national systems to external scrutiny and so implicitly given present and future victims of nation-state tyranny the hope of vindication by outside means. There may be — it has to be recognised — problems in the way Pinochet was allowed to come to Britain under the official assumption that he was immune; in his case the adage that non-knowledge of the law is no excuse hardly applies when the law is developing almost daily. But the individual's discomfort diminishes to the point of insignificance when measured against the standard of hope that this case has raised: the prospect that, albeit after many years, albeit at a distance, justice is infeasible. Jack Straw is a mere agent of process... but what a process. On it depends not just the wishes of Chileans, at home and abroad, but

a wider constituency needing assurance that this imperfect world offers an eventual possibility of justice. His affirmation of last week's House of Lords ruling is enjoined by the conviction — and this is a belief to separate the sheep and the goats — that this world can be made a more just place.

## The boss walks

But is it heroic?

MARTIN Taylor goes and billions (well nearly two) are wiped off Barclays Bank's valuation. Sir Richard Greenbury is kicked upstairs and brokers declare a bull market in his successor's reputation. Just how much does personality matter in business? Companies purport to pay top dogs objectively but the real difference made by individuals, for better or for worse, is often grotesquely exaggerated. In politics, too, it's often observed how for a mature democracy we seem curiously enthralled by the Führerprinzip. Not just Tony, either. There is as much over-expectation surrounding William Hague whose party's problems are structural and ideological.

As for business, markets are made by men only up to a point. Bill Gates, supremely lucky, showed flair and imagination

in securing the tie-up with IBM that made Microsoft's operating system the industry standard. But how much room for manoeuvre exists in most business environments? Martin Taylor may be a great intellect (though a cynic might observe that his advice on social security benefit reform was surprisingly ordinary) but the position of Barclays like the other clearing banks remains a curious compound of history, inefficiency permitted by customer inertia together with tumultuous competition from the "virtual" financial service providers. A brand (Marks and Spencers) is built on a style. Fashions change, clients age — few bosses buck long cycles in corporate ecology. Great claims have been made for how Mr Taylor's departure shows corporate governance working well: it would be interesting to see more mundane evidence of the impact of non-executive directors in determining companies' fate.

Genius is rare. Most contenders are epigones, time-servers, exploiters of fortune, professionals who worked their way up. Barclays' long run fate will get worked out little differently now Mr Taylor is no longer at the helm. He, however, may be fitted for new corporate tasks — but more because he will be expected to do great things than because he genuinely is Alexander the Great of British enterprise.

## Letters to the Editor

### Behind the headlines

Focusing on fundamental change equates to blindness (Melissa Benn, November 29). I am guilty. The Equal Opportunities Commission has fought cases, clarified law, and recommended changes to legislation — within a tiny budget.

This may not always make headlines, but, as millions across the country who have had their quality of life improved will confirm, it works. Kamlesh Bahl, Equal Opportunities Commission, Manchester.

So an Ofsted inspector who "bulled and intimidated teachers" is to be derided, and Chris Woodhead says he does not normally announce such decisions (Ofsted drops inspector, November 29).

Why not Mr Woodhead? It's what you do to fail inspectors, isn't it? Why not to failing inspectors? Derek Gillard, Marston, Oxford.

Why not have an O-zone at the Millennium Dome? It could be filled with smog and contain displays showing the effect on the planet of the unnecessary use of materials for an absurd and irrelevant project that scarcely anyone wants and no one needs. It could also show how £788 million could help reduce poverty and promote energy conservation. Steve Bell is the obvious choice of designer. Tony Shelton, Leeds.

What a torturous dilemma Tony Blair threatens to inflict upon hereditary peers by planning a Boxing Day sitting for the Lords (Christmas is cancelled, November 29). They will be torn between staying at home to attend the traditional Boxing Day bunt or going to the House — a choice between kill the fox or kill the bill. Peter Allen, Worthing, West Sussex.

So, eating babies is good for you (Diet of premature babies affects IQ, November 27). I'm willing to give it a try if you can give a suitable recipe. Robert Hill, Edinburgh.

## Stone's Turkish myths

NORMAN Stone (The other extradition, November 29) writes glowingly of Turkey's free media and "social circumstances that are way above those of any of her neighbours". The pro-Kurdish Guardian newspaper has had its Istanbul offices bombed in suspicious circumstances, and has been banned and had to change its name four times in recent years.

Perhaps Mr Stone's acceptance of the pro-government line of the rest of the Turkish press has sheltered him from the extreme poverty prevalent in the Kurdish south-east. Government programmes have created a situation not dissimilar to that of Kosovo. The only difference is the effectiveness of the Turkish propaganda machine which allows Mr Stone to overlook such trivialities. Chris Weston, Wrotham, Kent.

NORMAN Stone criticises Pinochet's extradition but not that of the Kurdish "terrorist" leader Abdullah Ocalan. This is, of course, the same Norman Stone who, in company with other do-gooders, sides with the "terrorist" KLA in Kosovo.

As your leader (November 29) admitted, Turkey's treatment of the Kurds is far worse

than anything the West accused the Serbs of in Kosovo. The Kurds are politically persecuted, banned from using their language and denied minority rights. Turkey pursues a policy of assimilation at gunpoint, deeming all its inhabitants to be Turkish.

Kosovo's Albanians, in contrast, could through their own political parties be running most of Kosovo's local government provided they abandon their boycott of the ballot box. They also enjoy full language rights and are a recognised minority.

The irony is that the air power recently amassed by Nato to intimidate Yugoslavia included a Turkish contingent. You would have the international community deal with the Turks as they have done with the Serbs. That presumption means unleashing Richard Holbrooke on Ankara and allowing Serb warplanes to participate in any bombing of Turkey. Mike Finch, Teddington, Middx.

YOU were absolutely correct to say that while Turkey "accepts a few thousand Greeks, Jews and Armenians as legitimate minorities, the same is not done for at least 8 million Kurds".

But at the beginning of the century there were 2 million Armenians living in Turkey.

Today there are 30,000. Almost 1.5 million were massacred by the then Turkish government's order, and the rest deported from their homes to the desert, and thence to Syria.

It would be appropriate if, when the peoples of Europe, are remembering and honouring the victims of the first world war, this genocide was recognised and condemned. Dr R. Stepanian, Committee for the Recognition of the Armenian Genocide, London.

WE will never forget the price in blood paid by Aduallah Ocalan. In Turkey we live with the deaths every day. Ocalan committed crimes not only against teachers, Kurdish women and children, and people living in the south-east, but also against humanity.

Despite what it would like the West to believe, the PKK has only about 15 per cent support among the Kurdish population. Nor do Kurds live only in the south-east. At least 4 million Kurdish people live and work in Istanbul alone.

Price is not a cultural society but a multi-cultural society but not to desire another border which would not represent the human geography of the area. That would surely precipitate another Bosnia. Dr D. Dondemir, Bodrum, Turkey.

This in no way addresses the problems of the British pig industry. Pig production in this country is welfare friendly, using methods which are virtually unheard of in the rest of the EU. These methods involve extra costs of production.

Price is important in this highly competitive market, and our industry is on the brink of collapse. Either a ban on pork imports not produced to our standards or some other assistance in redressing this imbalance is essential. Otherwise, consumers will not be able to buy this quality product as most British pig farmers will have gone out of business. This is not protectionism, but an animal welfare and food safety measure. Nick Taylor, Horstead, Norwich.

Closing Association is here (the secret of Linking and the City of London Truss Society "for the relief of the ruptured poor throughout the United Kingdom").

NOWHERE is the sense of wellbeing greater than in the profiles of nations abroad, both ours and other people's — reflecting the fact that the information is here supplied by their governments. Only the Scots are short-changed: their account reads like the work of a condescending Sassanach, congratulating them on eventually coming round to appreciate the benefits of the Union, and conceding that their Calvinistic religion, though it has not in every case led them to piety, helps promote thought and mental activity.

Were and these one stumbles across the disavantaged. Surprisingly, these include the deans and chapters of several dioceses, who at some



## Christmas is coming and coming

IT is called the Christmas "season" with good cause — some shops and businesses introduce a Christmas theme in September. This gives three months in the year that we run the risk of being reminded that Christmas is coming — one day out of four.

We should reduce the seasonal status of Christmas and create instead a month of Christmas, outside of which no reindeer or piped carol

singing would be allowed. It could replace December or be added as a 13th month since the lunar cycle is a much more reliable basis for our calendar. Christmas Day could fall on the 29th of Christmonth or Yule.

We could all feel a little more tolerant knowing that the "feeding frenzy" is contained within safe limits. Allan Mackenzie, Inverness.

## Football fever Time warp

THE apparent increase in football hooliganism this season (Comeback by soccer thugs, November 29) should not be ignored, but the mistakes of the seventies and eighties in viewing this as a "football problem", should not be repeated.

Any form of hooliganism or other anti-social behaviour is a symptom of wider social ill as can be seen in any town on any Friday night. Violent and abusive behaviour at cricket and rugby matches and at racecourses is also on the rise. Nobody ever blamed the sport in these cases.

You noted that one of the most violent outbreaks this season was a match between Glasgow Rangers and Sheffield Wednesday. It was switched from Highbury to the ground at Tranmere Rovers' Prenton Park because the sectarian violence was expected to be much worse if executed as an "Orange invasion" of Dublin.

"Vandalism is a people problem, and another long, hard look at football will have no effect. David Davies, Salford.

WELCOMED Peter Garratt speaking out about the media's disregard for and disparagement of the science fiction genre (Letters, November 29). It is almost as though our quality national newspapers are in a time warp.

Esoteric book reviewers of mainstream literary fiction ask if the end of "the novel" is in sight. Of course it is. Many "literary" novelists apply themselves to a mainstream genre that is as dead as the dodo.

Do your literary editor or reviewers have any idea of the quality work that has come up from the sidelined science fiction genre in recent years, including Ursula K. Le Guin's *The Left Hand of Darkness* and Joan D. Vinge's *Catspaw* and *Dreadnought*.

Mary Doria Russell's *The Sparrow* has been described as one of the 10 best novels of the last 20 years. Have any of your reviewers read this novel?

I suggest your literary editor takes off the blinkers. There is more to literary life than the Booker Prize. Doreen Norman, Buckinghamshire.

## Pinochet, Blair Peach and the culture of impunity

HUGO Young (Law lords leave one man with no place to hide, November 29) is quite right to extend discussion of the Pinochet affair to the "professional annul" of ministers in Britain.

We have a culture of impunity in this country, too. One of the final acts of professional annul by the last Labour government in 1978 was to remain unmoved by the violent events of April 23 in Southall, during which a teacher, Blair Peach, was killed. At least 10 witnesses saw him killed by one of six police officers, but none of them has been brought to justice since.

If the intervening years impunity has taken root — for the rich and powerful and for racism in the police force in particular. The consequences of the latter have slowly been uncovered by the inquiry into the death of Stephen Lawrence.

In the meantime, as Baroness Thatcher and the Tory rump stumble to the defence of the indefensible, the links between their partiality for Pinochet and the culture they promoted in Britain are made ever more apparent.

Next year it will be 20 years since Blair Peach's death — less than the time that now separates us from the Chilean coup. The events being planned to commemorate him will offer another chance to reflect on the culture of impunity that still prevails in Britain, and for ministers to cast off their professional annul in favour of decisive action that puts an end to this dreadful legacy once and for all. David Ransom, Lechlade, Glos.

IAN Black's claim that "thousands of people" have been burning British flags in the streets of San Diego (Fears for trade and diplomacy, November 27) is nonsense and simply grist to the mill of hardline Pinochetists who are trying to create an image of chaos in order to blackmail the British authorities into releasing their leader.

—A shirt from one fair-sized demonstration after Pinochet's arrest, demonstrations in his favour have involved no more than a few score people — at the most a couple of hundred — and flag-burning incidents have been very few.

What is remarkable about the whole affair is how little effect it has had on the streets.

The vast majority of Chileans simply want the general of their books. As recent polls have shown, whether this is achieved at home or abroad is a matter of less concern. Malcolm Coad, Santiago, Chile.

Betrayal on Pinochet would be the final straw. Tony Abramson, Leeds.

## QUOTE OF THE DAY FROM CORBY

**"James, why don't you write books that people can read."**

Nora Joyce

## Victorian values

### David McKie



THE value of Britain's exports of land to the rest of the world soared, I have just discovered, from £1,588,148 in 1897 to £2,887,801 the following year. How gratifying such figures must have been for Victorian believers in progress as they came across them in Whitaker's Almanac — at least until they discovered a few pages later that imports of land were up

too, from £2,026,303 to £2,976,826, leaving a land trade deficit of nearly £90,000.

No matter for most of its 900-odd pages, the story the almanac had to tell was overwhelmingly heartening: a great nation, a great empire, prosperous and respected across the world under the kindly guidance of the world's most glorious monarch.

The Stationery Office has hit on the happy idea of republishing Whitaker just as it hit the bookshelves in the year 1900. Devotees of small print and irrelevant information have rarely had such a treat, but anyone with a sense of history should treasure it too. For here is a portrait, assembled by random accumulation, of a sedate, settled, somewhat self-satisfied nation as it contemplates a new century, with income tax at 9p in the pound, and day trips to Hampton Court by rail from London for 1s 10d return, and the FA Cup in the hands of

Sheffield United, who beat Derby 4-1.

Victoria dominates: her ministers, her soldiers, her sailors, her dockyards — from Portsmouth and Devonport to Esquimaux, Haabovline and Trincomalee — and her household, whose roll call runs on as unendingly as a list of movie credits today. Alongside the Queen stands the church — the Church of England, of which she is head, but also the Catholics and Non-conformists, not excluding the Countess of Huntingdon's Connection.

When they are not on their knees, the Victorians are forming societies, many of which survive, though others I think have been lost: the Society for the Study of Inebriety, for instance, or the London Society For Teaching The Blind To Read And Training Them In Industrial Occupations, which I dare say was known for short as the LSFTTBTRATTHO. The Early

Closing Association is here (the secret of Linking and the City of London Truss Society "for the relief of the ruptured poor throughout the United Kingdom").

NOWHERE is the sense of wellbeing greater than in the profiles of nations abroad, both ours and other people's — reflecting the fact that the information is here supplied by their governments. Only the Scots are short-changed: their account reads like the work of a condescending Sassanach, congratulating them on eventually coming round to appreciate the benefits of the Union, and conceding that their Calvinistic religion, though it has not in every case led them to piety, helps promote thought and mental activity.

Were and these one stumbles across the disavantaged. Surprisingly, these include the deans and chapters of several dioceses, who at some

stage agreed to take, in lieu of fixed money payments, certain estates estimated to produce the same income. They are consequently suffering more or less from the present agricultural depression.

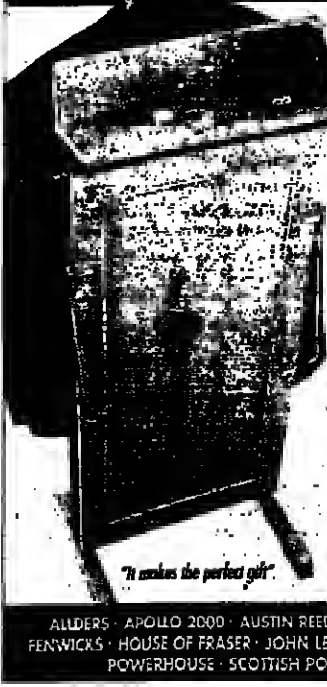
Each county and town has its population of paupers: in some areas — Dorset, Herefordshire, Norfolk, parts of North Wales and northern Scotland — 4 per cent of the population fell into this category. The mentally ill and handicapped are described, brutally as it now seems, as lunatics; they are housed in institutions like the Asylum for Idiots and Imbeciles.

There is also, as frequently of churchyards know, the omnipresence of death. Life expectancy at birth is 41 for men and 45 for women; though should you live till four you can hope for a further 51 years if male and 53 if female. These are average figures; prospects in the great industrial towns were very much bleaker.

On no account miss the advertisements: they're an essential part of the picture. Chatto and Windus are offering A Crimson Crime, by Geo. Manville Fenn, author of A Flattered Dovecote. Heinemann offers Innermost Asia: a record of travel and sport in the Pamirs, by Ralph P. Cobbold, late 60th Rifles. Multifarious life-assurance companies proclaim their respectability by listing boards of directors heavily populated by peers and MPs.

The illustrations are especially touching. If you do nothing else, do at least sneak a glance at the dead rat displayed by Stainer's Vermin Paste, or the Sapphire Inkstand ("invaluable in hot climates", with its echoes of some heavily over-armoured knight of the Middle Ages about to embark on a spot of vigorous jousting).

Whitaker's Almanac 1900, facsimile edition, Stationery Office, £25.



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## Low marks for essay in productivity



## McKinsey's waste output

Larry Elliott

STUDIES show that tax inspectors, estate agents, traffic wardens, solicitors and journalists are the people we really love to hate. For some reason, management consultants don't feature among the great unloved, even though they seem to be grossly overpaid for what they do. Stating the obvious.

And that's just the good ones. There are times when the advice of management consultants can be positively harmful — either because it prevents corporate management from thinking for its own solutions to problems or because the advice is simply wrong.

The report by the McKinsey Global Institute, which has been used by the Government to support the case for productivity improvements, falls into the latter category. According to the McGI, Britain has a big productivity gap with the French and German, and an even bigger productivity gap with the United States. The reason for this shortfall is that Britain is far too regulated.

That's right. No kidding. Britain after 18 years in which the country has been testing ground for free-market experimentation has too many bar-

riers to efficiency and growth. Whereas critics of Britain's economic performance have argued that weak investment and poor levels of skills (coupled with low growth) are the problem, the report says that these are the consequences of market distortions. "Although the UK is one of the most deregulated economies in Europe, it retains a plethora of regulations governing the use of land and property that are intended to protect the nation's countryside, high streets and heritage," says the McKinsey Report.

So there we have it. The way to improve Britain's productivity is to bulldoze all those quaint yet over-stuffed country house hotels that the tourists love and replace them with Marriott International complete with in-house video channels and mini-bars. Once that's successfully completed the Government can destroy what's left of our high streets and give the green light for an array of "shopping lanes" in that relic of post-war interference — the Green Belt.

Nick Crafts, one of Britain's leading academic experts on productivity, says that if the report had been an undergraduate essay 20 years ago he would have failed it. With today's less exacting standards, he'd give it a 2.1.

A report last week by Rachel Griffith and Helen Simpson of the Institute for Fiscal Studies argued that the McKinsey study may be substantially over-stating the extent of Britain's productivity problem. McKinsey looked at output per worker, which flatters the US because it has higher labour market participation and its citizens work

longer hours. Once capital is included in the equation as well as labour to produce a measure of Total Factor Productivity, the gap becomes even smaller. And once the quality of the capital employed is taken into account, the gap between the US and Britain becomes so small as to be negligible.

That's not to say that productivity is unimportant. Ultimately, living standards are linked to productivity improvements, but we need to know what we are talking about particularly with Western economies becoming ever more service-sector driven.

Take the case of a haircut, which may take a barber the same length of time now as 40 years ago in crude terms, but means output per hour has remained unchanged, but if the short and sides in the 1950s made you look like an escaped convict and the haircut today makes you look like Tom Cruise, there would be a real productivity gain. The McKinsey suggestions

goes over this point, and tend to go against the grain of the Government's commendable commitment last week to a new range of quality of life indicators. What's more, the idea that Britain should try to become a carbon copy of the United States looks a bit dubious in the light of America's productivity record.

As a TUC response to the Treasury-backed survey put it: "The US record on work-force productivity (GDP per person employed) has, over the past 40 years, been much worse than almost any European Union state, including the UK."

The TUC argues that data from the West's leading think tank, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, shows that post-1973 UK labour productivity in the business sector was little different before and after the introduction of free-market "reforms".

In addition, it says the US productivity growth has delivered very little in the way of

higher living standards. The average annual increase in US hourly wages in real terms since 1979 has been barely 0.5 per cent, with all but the top fifth in the labour market experiencing cuts in real hourly wage levels.

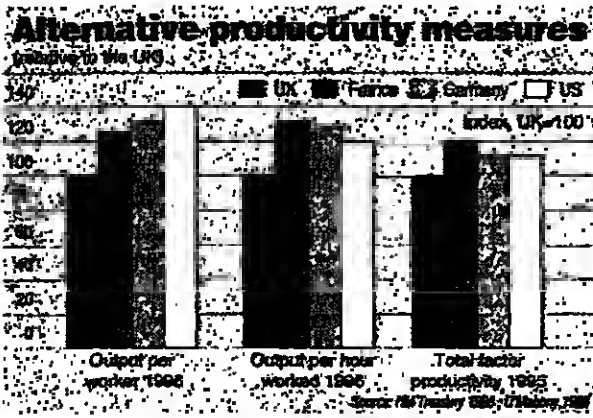
The TUC says McKinsey's policy recommendations will do little to address the real root causes of poor performance — under-investment, skill shortages and poor work-conditions. The TUC cites an Institute of Personnel and Development study which found a strong link between profitability and the way in which people were treated at work.

Given the TUC's slavish devotion to monetary union, its paper rather glosses over the fact that Europe's higher level of productivity growth in recent years has been at the expense of unacceptable levels of unemployment.

French supermarkets, for example, have few of the low productivity workers — the bag packers and shelf stackers — that you find in Tesco or Sainsbury. That said though, it has rather more sensible things to say than the McKinsey study.

There are three interlocking factors that need to be tackled if Britain is to improve its productivity record. The first is that productivity growth is linked to overall expansion and the state of the labour market. Companies that invest in R&D and innovation will be strong demand in the future for their goods, and this tendency is re-inforced when labour is dear relative to capital, as it was in the days of full employment.

Second, low productivity



## West owns up to deep complicity in Asia

Not only the cronies wove basket cases, writes Mark Atkinson

TWO competing causes have been advanced for the Asian economic crisis — hasty financial liberalisation or cronyism. Not surprisingly, the West has chosen to emphasise the latter. By blaming the victims for their own misfortune, it helps western policymakers to sleep more easily. If they had to take responsibility for precipitating the crisis, it might require a fundamental re-think of all that they hold dear.

Yet a special edition of the Cambridge Journal of Economics, published last week, suggests that the West, by imposing its doctrines of deregulation and economic liberalisation on the Asian countries has much to answer for. Although corruption and cosy relationships between banks, businessmen and politicians, may have been endemic in Asia, it was not the primary cause of the crisis, the journal argues.

Rather it was caused by the programmes of financial liberalisation that were undertaken by the Asian countries with Western backing, in the years preceding their downturns, programmes which allowed hot money to flow in and out of the crisis countries to ultimately disastrous effect.

Moreover, in some cases financial liberalisation actually enhanced the opportunities for cronyism by removing some of the safeguards which helped keep it in check.

Take South Korea. Starting in 1980, the Korean government under Kim Young Sam implemented radical financial liberalisation, which led to a rapid build up of foreign debt. Much of this debt, in over 50 per cent, was short term, making the country vulnerable to sudden swings in capital flows.

Ha-Joon Chang, of Cambridge, Hong-Jae Park, University of London and Chul Gyue Yoo, of Oxford, argue that the inflow of foreign debt fuelled an investment boom,

which led to excess capacity in key industries. The latter was also made possible by the weakening of centralised investment coordination. In turn, the weakening of industrial policy and the abolition of five-year planning created opportunities for cronyism in key industries.

Indonesia suffered the same fate, according to Jonathan Pincus of the University of London, and Rizal Ramli, Indonesia's leading independent economist. In a joint article, Indonesia: From Showcase to Basket Case, they argue that the immediate cause of the crisis was the spread of contagion from Thailand.

However, they say that the intensity of the downturn can only be explained in terms of the government's progressive loss of control over the financial system as a result of the liberalisation drive.

Indonesian economic ministers installed the developing world's most liberal banking system in the 1980s. It helped fuel the country's rapid economic growth in the run-up to the crisis, but also undermined efforts to stabilise the situation.

The authors are also critical of the IMF for pressing Indonesia to maintain high interest rates and an open capital account despite evidence that these policies were not working.

The softer approach adopted by the IMF and G7 suggests that the lessons of the Asian crisis have begun to be learnt. The authorities have given their blessing to the loosening of fiscal straightjackets. Since Russia's August devaluation, policy makers have also been talking of the need for orderly capital account liberalisation and stronger regulation of international capital markets. This suggests world financial leaders have begun to acknowledge their complicity in the crisis.

But words have not been followed up with action. One can only hope that discussions about reform of the global financial system are continuing behind the scenes. Unless they are, history threatens to repeat itself.

Cambridge Journal of Economics, Volume 22, Number 6, November 1998. Published on behalf of the Cambridge Political Economy Society by Oxford University Press.

## Indicators

TODAY — EU: Franco/German summit, Potsdam.  
UK: CFS report on services.  
TOMORROW — EU: ECB council press conference.  
EU: Monetary policy council meeting.  
UK: CBI distribution survey (Nov).  
UK: PMI (Nov).  
WEDNESDAY — IT: Producer prices (Oct).

## Tourist rates — bank sells

Australia 2.53	Germany 2.7436	Malaysia 6.30	Singapore 2.68
Belgium 18.24	Greece 460.32	South Africa 9.28	Spain 232.12
Canada 2.47	Hong Kong 12.49	Sweden 13.23	Switzerland 2.266
Cyprus 0.8088	Ireland 1.0971	Turkey 482.700	USA 1.6140
Denmark 10.48	Israel 8.91		
Finland 8.42	Italy 2.730		
France 9.1709			

Supplied by Reuters (excluding Japan, Israel and Iceland)

## Thank the General for Thatcher

Debate  
Andy Robinson

IT WAS not just logistical support in the Falklands war which endeared Margaret Thatcher to Pinochet. Before she came to power, Mrs Thatcher sent advisers to Pinochet to look at the general's supply-side reforms. After the 1978 coup, Chile staged the premiere for policies that would later become world box-office hits. Anti-inflationary shock treatment, deregulation and privatisation were tested by Pinochet years before Mrs Thatcher and Ronald Reagan held their own supply-side revolutions. By 1981, Pinochet was crowing: "Seven years ago we were alone. Now we're part of a categoric world trend." But there are ironies in Pinochet's role in establishing the neoliberal paradigm, not least that the economists he recruited as advisers — famously nicknamed the Chicago Boys — were educated at the University of Chicago, thanks to grants from the United States government.

Between 1966 and 1980, the Agency for International Development — or Aid — provided grants for more than 100 economics students at Chicago, where they studied under supply-side gurus such as Milton Friedman and Arnold Harberger.

Where American state subsidies were insufficient, the Rockefeller and Ford Foundations stepped in.

Why was the US so keen to subsidise higher education in such a remote loca-

tion? Easy. It was about the war against Communism. Once they had graduated, the first generation of Chicago Boys returned to Santiago and took up positions at the Catholic University, which had been moved, with US cash, to the foothills of the Andes.

The young supply-siders spread the Friedman doctrine. The best of their students received grants from Aid and set off for Chicago. "Chicago became the legend and the goal," says writer Juan Gabriel Valdés. Locating the new faculty in the Cordillera helped form an "esprit de corps and a missionary zeal" in students, he says.

After Pinochet's bloody coup of 1973, the junta liquidated the Prebischites, the left-wing Keynesians and Marxists who had worked with Allende, and searched for advisers. "There were very good Christian Democrat economists but they wouldn't

swallow the civil rights abuses," says Valdés.

"Pinochet wanted advisers who answered to science and nothing but science." The Chicago Boys waited for him with rational expectations out in the Cordillera, far from the squabbles and strains of the city centre.

In the following years, 60 Chicago graduates took up government posts under Sergio de Castro, a leading Chicago Boy, implementing a radical programme of supply-side reforms.

By 1981, the Boys were triumphant. Mr Friedman announced that Chile was the "miracle of the decade", and the Wall Street Journal suggested bringing Pinochet's economic reforms to advise Reagan.

The orgy of backslapping came to an abrupt end the following year, when the Latin American debt crisis crippled the Chilean economy and the financial system collapsed.

A second generation of more pragmatic Chicago Boys took over in the eighties — with mixed results until Pinochet retired as head of state in 1988.

Most of the Chicago Boys have emerged from the Pinochet years with reputations intact. They seemed not to notice the dictatorship's repression, says Valdés, whose book on the Chicago Boys is published next year. The dictatorship gave them 15 years, and 3,000 dead or disappeared.

"In all the internal documents there is no indication that the abuse of human rights presented a problem for the Chicago Boys," he says. "They didn't even ask one question."

Pinochet: The Chicago Boys never questioned his regime

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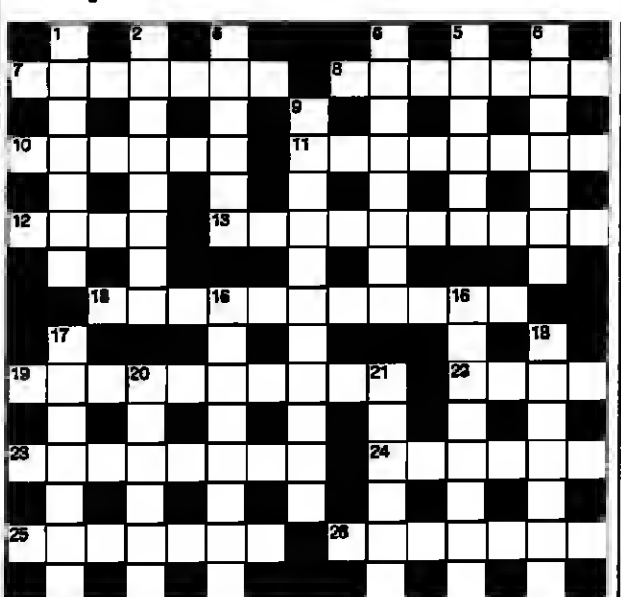
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Pinochet: The Chicago Boys never questioned his regime

## Guardian Crossword No 21,445

Set by Rufus



## Across

- Shout out various numbers during course of test (7)
- As result of special deal, English railway passed through another station (7)
- Key operators may strike against it (6)
- Lois died broke but greatly admired (6)
- Time that is right for a row (4)
- Spot cash the bookmakers must be prepared to pay out (5,5)
- Intoxicated at form of non-appreciation (11)
- It may provide accompaniment to "Pinafore" production (10)
- Undreamt of money (4)
- Deed pairs prepare to ride on the ranch (5,2)
- Cats in the pound (6)

## Down

- To give reasons is no longer simple (7)
- Pressing need for home club (6)
- Billy has hot tip, might make gangster's fortune (6)
- Suggestive of European river rising fast (6)
- Where people make pots on a wheel? (6)
- Intriguing woman had her face painted (7)
- Martin hopes to mkt. the very thing he hates (11)
- Firm, lean sort of fighting man (8)
- Upset caused by greed and corruption (8)
- One may be mounted in a ring (7)
- She's a real swinger in Paris

20 It sounds bad — not so, he's in the pink (6)  
21 Strange noises affecting Greece and Cyprus (6)

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Preferential rate of interest for Flexible Repayment Mortgage	7.70%
Preferential rate of interest for Personal Loan — Variable Secured	7.70%

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## Stating the blindingly obvious, page 11

### Tomorrow: How Eurocamp is holding up

Financial Editor: Alex Brummer  
Telephone: 0171-239 9610  
Fax: 0171-833 4456

# FinanceGuardian

## Demand for French car firm's 206 model brings boost for West Midlands



The Peugeot 206 was launched at the British International Motor Show in Birmingham in October — sales have outstripped forecasts

PHOTOGRAPH: RICHARD LEAH-WAR

## 1,000 new jobs at Peugeot

Nicholas Bannister, Chief Business Correspondent

**P**EUGEOT is poised to lift unemployment in the West Midlands with plans to create 1,000 new jobs, with a further 3,000 posts among component suppliers. The French-owned car manufacturer is planning to create a third shift at its Ryton plant near Coventry to meet higher than expected demand for its new 206 model.

Union negotiators have agreed terms for the new shift to start in January and the company is near to an agreement on a small amount of government aid. However, the plan has yet to be approved by the Peugeot main board in France.

The employment boost would come as the West Midlands motor industry is coming to terms with the loss of at least 2,500 jobs at Rover, mostly at the company's ageing

Longbridge plant in Birmingham. BMW, the German owner of Rover, has demanded the cutbacks as part of the price for continuing with its £1.7 billion investment in its British subsidiary.

Peugeot, which makes the 206 at its Mulhouse plant in France and at Ryton, had anticipated increasing the number of shifts in the UK if there was adequate demand but did not expect to be in a position to do so until well into the first quarter of next year.

However, the demand for the 206, which made its UK debut at the British International Motor Show at the Na-

tional Exhibition Centre in Birmingham in October, has exceeded forecasts. It has been on sale in France for seven months.

The Ryton plant already has orders for all its production until the end of the year. The third shift would enable it to increase its output from

2,600 to 4,000 vehicles a week. The biggest threat to the plan to expand Ryton's production is posed by Peugeot's main board whose members are under pressure to create new employment at the company's French plants where jobs have been lost.

Peugeot's UK management hopes that its success with the 206 will help it win main board approval for a second, as yet unspecified, model to be built at Ryton within the next three years. The 206 is seen as a successor to the legendary Peugeot 205, voted Car of the Decade in the 1990s. It is already selling at a faster rate than the 205, sales of which did not really accelerate until the introduction of a GTI model.

The future of Rover's Longbridge works — the largest car plant in the UK — should be decided within the next 10 days.

A delegates' meeting, attended by one representative

for every 100 workers from all of the company's plants, will meet this week to decide whether or not to recommend the deal to its 39,000 workers.

Rover staff are still angry over the way Bernd Fischer, the chairman of BMW, overshadowed the launch of the Rover 75 at the British International Motor Show by announcing that Longbridge would close unless a 30 per cent productivity gap between the group's British and German workers was closed.

However, industry sources claim the Rover management should have acted earlier to stem the company's losses of about £500 million a year.

The German magazine Der Spiegel reported yesterday that BMW was to replace several Rover managers with BMW managers following problems with quality. It also said the position of Rover's chief executive, Walter Haselkuss, was under threat.

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### The heart of the motor industry

**ROVER** Seeking 2,500 job losses throughout company

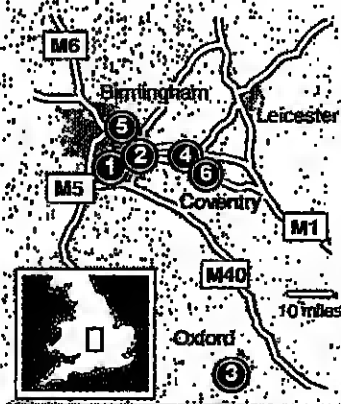
- ① Longbridge Headcount already fallen from 16,000 to 13,000 over the past 3 years. Needs £1.7 billion investment to build new Mini and replacement for the Rover 200 and 400.
- ② Solihull Headcount recently cut through reduction of contract workers
- ③ Cowley, Oxford £400 million investment in new Rover 75 created 1,000 new jobs

**Jaguar** 1,300 jobs being created by production of new S-type.

- ④ Coventry, Whitley Engineering Centre
- ⑤ Castle Bromwich

**Peugeot** Possible 1,000 new jobs to expand production of 206 model.

- ⑥ Ryton, near Coventry



## Barclays will give fair hearing to predators

Jill Treanor

**B**ARCLAYS faces a barrage of bid speculation today as it begins crucial meetings with disgruntled shareholders after the resignation of chief executive Martin Taylor last week.

The bank, already cited as a potential merger partner for Halifax or Lloyds TSB, is playing down talk of its vulnerability but is expected to listen to any proposals from rivals.

Sir Peter Middleton, the board member parachuted in as chief executive, said: "The banking and financial services market is very frothy. There isn't a single bank that isn't thinking about the issue of global consolidation."

Banking sources warn that shareholders may push Barclays into a merger if Andrew Buxton, outgoing chairman, and Sir Peter fail to ease growing anxieties about the bank's management.

Anne Simpson of PIRC, the

corporate governance group, believes the bank's institutional shareholders also need to consider the part they played in the departure of Mr Taylor, who is thought to have left after failing to win support for his radical plans.

"Shareholders need to support a reforming chief executive or chairman," Ms Simpson said yesterday.

Shareholders and City analysts will also demand reasons for the £300 - £500 million shortfall between their profit expectations and its statement last week in which it said its profits would be £1.9 billion.

Seeing the plight of Barclays, many corporate financiers are expected to be busily preparing briefs for clients on the possibility of making merger approaches to the troubled bank.

Barclays, with a market capitalisation of some £35 billion, is of a similar size to Halifax, which is also suffering a

management crisis and which may look to Barclays to build up its strength.

The former building society is known to be prepared to put its £3 billion cash pile to use in a merger or acquisition.

Other financial groups likely to receive the attention of corporate financiers include NatWest, Abbey National and insurer Prudential. A merger rather than a takeover would avoid a huge "goodwill" bill.

Lord Alexander, soon to depart as chairman of NatWest, urged Barclays to fill its management positions quickly.

"Clearly, what they've done is got their management succession at the top wrong. They have a vacuum, they need to put it right," he yesterday told GMTV's Sunday Programme.

Global consolidation of banking groups is expected to speed up today with confirmation that Deutsche Bank, Germany's largest, has sealed its \$9.5 billion acquisition of Bankers Trust of America.

## This week Market jitters expected to hit 130-point Footsie gain

Laurie Laird

**I**T WILL be another jittery week for the market, after the surprise near-130-point gain last week left the Footsie close to July's all-time highs.

The banking sector will be in the spotlight after the surprise resignation of Barclays chief executive Martin Taylor last week.

The market is preparing for a bid with some observers speculating that the ambitious Halifax could be in the frame. Royal Bank of Scotland reports on Thursday, which gives a clue to the health of second-line banks.

Electronics giant GEC delivers an anxiously-awaited interim report on Thursday, observers hope the group may clear up speculation that it plans to merge with the French Alcatel, revealed in the Guardian.

Today's — Interim: AEA Technology, Balfour Beatty, Third Quarter: Micro Focus, Fleetstar, Alders, Care UK, Eurocamp, Imperial Tobacco, Nord Anglia Education, Scottish Pacific Holdings, Young Holdings.

TOMORROW — Interim: Amstar, Biffaward Group, East Surrey Holdings, Highbury Foods, Hogg Robinson, Wagon, Fleetstar Communications, Chardac Group, Get Group, Sancopter, Scottish Investment, SCS Upholstery, Swiftbury.

WEDNESDAY — Interim: Alfa, Birkby, Compo Holdings, Greene King, Hampson Industries, Redcan International, RSC, Fleetstar, Biff, MEPC, M&G Group.

THURSDAY — Interim: Abbeybank, Airbus, AIT Group, Biffard Television, Expro International, GEC, GLS, Heston Group, London International Group, Mid Kent Holdings, Videologic, Fleetstar, Avon Rubbers, Bess, Dewhurst, Royal Bank of Scotland.

FRIDAY — Interim: Culture Finest, Dorian Electronics.

## Proxy vote survey names and shames

Jill Treanor

**M**OST shareholders fail to vote at the annual meetings of the companies in which they invest, and many of these firms refuse to disclose the results of ballots — contrary to guidelines set out in the Hampel report.

These claims are made by corporate governance specialists Pirc in the most comprehensive study of proxy voting conducted in Britain. They

came at a time when the Government is investigating the role of shareholders in corporate governance. The Department of Trade and Industry is also reviewing company law.

Only 1 per cent of shareholders actually attend meetings and if they do vote, they do so by proxy even though companies are able to override a proxy vote by calling for a "show of hands".

While Pirc's survey established that only 45 per cent of potential votes are exercised at the UK's largest 350 firms, that is an improvement on the 37 per cent during 1995.

Pirc, which is calling for a regulatory and legal reform of voting, found that most rebellions staged by shareholders centre on the pay of senior executives.

The National Association of Pension Funds is conducting an inquiry into proxy voting and Pirc was the first to make its case. It called for compulsory voting and a requirement to disclose proxy votes — Hampel merely made a recommendation. Pirc also wants the "show of hands" abolished.

"Transparency is essential to effective corporate governance," said Anne Simpson of Pirc. Its "name and shame" list of companies failing to disclose proxy voting results includes GEC, British Steel, Boots, HSBC and Barclays.

On the role of honour are BAT, ICI, Body Shop and Marks & Spencer.

population do not have bank or building society accounts, while almost twice as many do not have cheque or current accounts, research published by the Economic and Social Research Council shows.

**Growth doubts** Trade figures today cast "grave doubts" on the Chancellor's growth forecast for Britain next year, a survey by the Centre for Economic and Manufacturing Policy says.

**Cash only for 7pc** Up to 7 per cent of the adult

### American Notebook

## Simpler rival for Microsoft



Mark Tran

**A**MERICA Online has struck a blow for the world's techno-plebs by assembling a powerful coalition with Netscape Communications and Sun Microsystems against Microsoft in the race to grab the lion's share of Internet commerce.

Silicon Valley technophiles usually sneer at AOL, based in suburban Dulles, Virginia. AOL is no technological pioneer such as Netscape and technical glitches have made it an object of disdain. AOL sank to its nadir in 1996. It was forced to change its legal but questionable accounting practices, erasing all of its profits.

Then it replaced its hourly charges with a flat rate of \$19.95 (\$12 a month). AOL's systems were overwhelmed, leaving so many customers complaining about engaged signals that regulators made the company offer refunds.

Yet AOL survived, and has emerged as a potent threat to Bill Gates' Microsoft at a time when the software giant is fighting the biggest antitrust case since the breakup of phone giant AT&T. AOL's resurgence, despite its lack of technological prowess, shows that the Internet era does not necessarily belong to the companies with the most technological savvy.

Bill Gates often complains — justifiably — about the complexity of Microsoft products, but his engineers seem to have trouble hearing the message.

The enormous success of Apple's iMac shows the appeal of user-friendly computers and the secret of AOL's success has been simplicity.

AOL's approach to the Internet reflects the background of Steve Case, the company's 39-year-old chief executive, who believes strongly that the service must be easy to try and easy to use.

Mr Case started out marketing hair conditioner for Procter & Gamble and then tested exotic new combinations for Pizza Hut, only to find that people preferred plain cheese and tomato.

IT IS a lesson he applied to AOL. The company has a simple email system, offers news from ABC, the New York Times and cybergossip Matt Drudge as well as sports, weather and personal finance.

It is a convenient way of ordering books and flowers and chat rooms abound, catering to anything from lonely hearts to Civil War buffs.

The hard part was building up AOL's customer base of now about 18 million people. AOL sent out software discs by direct mail to millions of computer users, offering them free trials. It was expensive and the churn rate — those who left compared to those who stayed — was high. But AOL did manage to build a clientele.

Companies started to take notice and were willing to pay to tap into AOL's virtual community. CUC International paid \$50 million for AOL to carry its online discount shopping service and 1,800 Flowers bought the flower concession for \$25 million.

On the other hand AOL has success stamped over it. With Netscape and Sun in its camp, it now leads a powerful force against Microsoft. Sun will sell Netscape software to businesses as well as paying \$350 million in licensing, marketing and advertising fees to AOL. AOL has been underestimating the power of the Internet.

Everyone else is now trying to catch up — including the whizz-kids at Microsoft.

Microsoft acknowledged AOL's clout by pushing to have its Internet Explorer browser adopted by the company.

AOL now reaches as many homes as cable operators. Time Warner or Tele-Communications Inc and has more subscribers than Time Newsweek and US News World Report combined.

It is also stealing viewers from television. Users spend an average of 51 minutes a day plugged into AOL, up from 14 minutes two years ago. Those minutes come at the expense of the networks and cable.

This made AOL a force to reckon with, so, after rejecting previous overtures, Netscape is now prepared to throw in its lot with Steve Case.

Netscape, an Internet software pioneer, has a very different ethos and it will not be easy to meld these disparate cultures. But, as Internet commerce becomes increasingly commonplace, Netscape complements AOL in important ways. Netscape has been moving away from the browser market — it now gives away its browser for free — towards Internet software for businesses and its own Netcentre portal or megaweb site, one of the most popular sites on the Internet. Subscribers to AOL and its subsidiaries, Compuserve and ICQ, as well as visitors to Netcentre, comprise a hefty audience and will allow the combined company to charge advertisers and online retailers top rates to reach large audiences.

**IT firms set to Net schools profits**

Nicholas Bannister, Chief Business Correspondent

**W**HILE teachers and pupils struggle to master the Internet, specialist IT companies are expecting to make a fortune. RM, the country's leading educational computer specialists, today forecasts that primary school spending on information and communication technology (ICT) will rise from £170 million to £680 million over the next three years.

The company said that the driving force behind the increase is the Government's National Grid for Learning initiative, launched a year ago. RM last week reported that its profits rose 25 per cent to £10 million last year, mainly owing

to the Government's moves to link schools to the Internet.

Its report to the National Grid for Learning's first year, predicts that all 28,000 schools will be connected to the grid and the Internet by 2002. Two years ago, only 1,500 schools had Internet access.

RM, which has connected 8,000 schools to the Internet, estimates that primary and secondary schools spend less than 1 per cent of their budgets on ICT, but primary schools the main target of the learning grid, last year increased their ICT spending by 75 per cent to £70 million.

RM forecasts that more and more schools will outsource their ICT operations to specialist companies.

JPL 11-6-1520



## Pitch produces Ashes roller-coaster



Bailed out... England's Alex Tudor, making his Test debut, bowls Steve Waugh for the first of his four wickets

PHOTOGRAPH: LAURENCE GRIFFITHS

## Australia v England: Second Test match

## England future brightened by the pace of things to come

## Mike Selvey sees mayhem in Perth

IN QUEEN'S GARDENS, the beautiful park that adjoins the Wex, there is a statue of Peter Pan, a replica of the one in Kensington Gardens in London, and the buzzing crowd that strolled out of the ground and past it into a crystal evening yesterday must have wondered whether this was not indeed Never Never Land.

On a pitch the like of which is not to be found anywhere else in the world, this match proceeded at such breakneck speed that had it not been for

a wonderful riposte from Graeme Hick as the shadows lengthened, and the best part of three hours of diligence from Mark Ramprakash, the whole thing might have been done and dusted inside two days, something that had not happened anywhere since the very first post-war Test.

England finished the day on 126 for five in their second innings, still two runs from making Australia bat again, in the circumstances it represented a recovery almost of heroic proportions after the three Australian pacemen Glenn McGrath, Jason Gillespie and above all Damien Fleming had sent England tumbling to 112 all out in 39 overs of mayhem early on Saturday.

Australia, 150 for three overnight and with Mark Waugh already entrenched, had then ground their way to 194 at lunch for the loss only of the nightwatchman Gillespie — just 44 runs from 30 overs.

The second new ball taken one over into the afternoon, a mysterious and foolhardy change of gear by the Australians, and the emergence of a young cricketer of genuine star quality turned things round.

Alex Tudor had got his chance to play here by the skin of his teeth, a talent hurrying to let rip but destined to be stifled, it seemed, by intransigence within the selection panel. Had he not played on this of all grounds, England would have left Australia wondering what might have been. Now we know.

From the Members' end, and into what breeze the Fremantle Doctor had prescribed, Tudor, wicketless thus far, hustled in like the young Ian Bishop reincarnate and at genuine express pace took four for 25 in 21 balls: Steve Waugh beaten by sheer pace and howled; Mark Waugh squared up and caught low down at third slip; Ricky Ponting caught at the wicket off a shorter that screamed past his chest; and McGrath the perk at the end.

At the other end Darren Gough, devoid of luck on this tour but with a soulmate now, puffed out his chest and ripped in to take two wickets.

Six Australia wickets tumbled in 55 uproarious minutes of the most heartening adrenalin-powered bowling from an England strike force operating in tandem since the days of Willis and Botham. A lead of 128, then, where it might have been many more.

The England second innings began as disastrously as the first, for with the pitch picking up even more pace on the second day, Fleming — Test-best figures of five for 46 in the first innings — removed Mark Butcher, Nasser Hussain and Alec Stewart inside 10 overs before tea and added the wicket of Mike Atherton after the interval.

Playing courageously and with intent, Atherton contributed all but five of the 40 runs scored while he was at the crease, twice looking his nemesis McGrath to the square boundary and hitting four more boundaries besides. His dismissal, a blameless one, and the same one of John Crawley, a shortening victim of Colin Miller in his off-spin guise, seemed to have settled things.

Instead Hick, in the side only because of Graham Thorpe's back injury, and out to a second-half duck in the first innings, played thunderously. His first ball from Miller was lashed through point and when Mark Taylor then turned to Gillespie the first bouncer was top-edged

## Scoreboard

ENGLAND	
First innings	
M A Butcher c Healy b Fleming	0
M A Atherton c Healy b McGrath	1
N Hussain c Healy b McGrath	6
M Ramprakash c Taylor b Fleming	38
J P Crawley c M E Waugh b Gillespie	4
G A Hick c Healy b Gillespie	0
G G Cook c Taylor b Fleming	2
T Tudor not out	18
D Gough c M E Waugh b Fleming	11
A D Mullally c Healy b Fleming	0
Extras (b1, w1, nb1)	0
Total (20 overs)	112
Fall of wickets: 2-4, 19-57, 74-74, 81-87, 108-108	
Second innings	
M A Butcher c Healy b Fleming	34
M A Atherton c Taylor b Fleming	1
N Hussain b Fleming	1
M Ramprakash not out	26
J P Crawley c Langer b Miller	16
G A Hick not out	42
Extras (b6)	0
Total (for 5, 47 overs)	126
Fall of wickets: 5-11, 15-40, 67-74, 81-87, 108-108	
Third day	
England 150-3 (30 overs)	
Australia 194-3 (30 overs)	
England 150-3 (30 overs)	
Australia 194-3 (30 overs)	

AUSTRALIA	
First innings	
M A Taylor c Stewart b Cook	0
M J Slater c Butcher b Gough	34
J L Langer c Crawley b Ramprakash	16
M E Waugh c Butcher b Tudor	38
J M Gillespie c Stewart b Mullally	11
S R Ponting c Stewart b Tudor	33
S R Ponting c Stewart b Tudor	11
T A Healy b Gough	12
D W Fleming c Hick b Gough	0
C R Miller not out	2
G O McGrath c Cook b Tudor	0
Extras (b1, nb1, nb13)	24
Total (39.2 overs)	240
Fall of wickets: 21-115, 30-165, 105-208, 214-228, 238-238	
Second day	
England 126-5 (47 overs)	
Australia 194-3 (30 overs)	
England 126-5 (47 overs)	
Australia 194-3 (30 overs)	

uncontrollably over the wicketkeeper Ian Healy.

When Gillespie changed ends to come downwind, however, Hick murdered him, pulling his first delivery high over midwicket for six, cutting the next ball for four and pulling the third for six again. In all 23 runs came from the over, and by the day's end Hick had made 42 from only 33 balls — already the second-highest score of the game after Taylor's 61 — and he and Ramprakash (28 not out) had added 59 in 11 overs for the sixth wicket.

Whatever the outcome England will take some positive things from this game. But, as in Brisbane, much of their predicament was self-inflicted. Six catches were missed, including Taylor on 38, Michael Slater twice, on 15 and 25, and Steve Waugh on 11 and 20. Gough, Tudor and Alan Mullally, who bowled exceptionally yesterday with no luck, deserved better reward for their exertions.

What was disappointing was the inability of the top-order batsmen to learn from the state game they played here. The pitch, they know, requires a unique mental and technical approach by which any delivery from a pace bowler on or just outside the off stump and on a good length or shorter must be allowed to pass through to the keeper.

It is about having a game plan and the discipline to carry it out and, as Mark Waugh demonstrated yesterday morning before he and his twin lost patience after lunch, it is a potentially tedious process against top-flight bowling. Good balls, many of them, have been bowled by the Australians, but bad shots have been played as well. That, like the standard of catching, is unacceptable in a series where England need every ounce of good fortune they can muster.

Paul Allott, page 15

## Scottish round-up

## Celtic hot on the heels of the leader

Patrick Glenn

CELTIC seem to have been clinging to championship contention in the way that Indiana Jones hung on to that lurching truck on the north African desert, but in the past week they appear to have taken a grip with their feet as well as their fingers.

The 2-0 home win over Motherwell on Saturday, following the 5-1 thrashing of Rangers, has reduced the gap with the leaders to four points, even if the Ibrox side have a match in hand.

More significantly, their latest success was the first time since February that they have won back-to-back league matches; the achievement will surely have deepened the belief of players and supporters that a sustained challenge over the season is now possible.

There is, too, the prospect of important players such as the midfielder Craig Burley, the central defender Marc Rieper and the goalkeeper Jonathan Gould returning from long-term injuries. Added to new signings such as Lihomir Moravcik, Johan Maljby and Vidar Riseth, the head coach Jozef Venglos will have some tasty options in the coming months.

Moravcik, the 33-year-old Slovakian, has already demonstrated his virtuosity with both feet in the four matches he has played since his arrival from MSV Duisburg while Maljby, a tall, powerful Swedish midfielder from AIK Stockholm, has been very effective in defence in the two games — coincidentally, the successive victories — in which he has participated.

Both were upstaged once again against Motherwell, however, by the electric Henrik Larsson, Maljby's countryman, who scored the first just before the interval and made the second goal for Phil O'Donnell when the game was only four minutes into the second half.

"People keep talking of turning-points," said the sensible, ever-quotable Larsson, "but we have a lot of games to win before we can talk in those terms."

"Rangers still have a good lead and we have much to do. But we are playing well again and we have some very good, intelligent players here."

Things are much less rosy for Alex Miller, the Aberdeen manager, who heard calls for his dismissal from disaffected fans after goals from Kjell Olofsson, Joe Miller and Craig Easton had given Dundee United a 3-0 victory at Pittodrie. Aberdeen are now sharing a lagging bottom place with Dunfermline, who were whipped by the same score at home to second-placed Kilmarnock in a match which featured a double from the veteran Ian Durrant and a single from Gary Holt.

## Scottish League Cup final



Sharp left... Jorg Albertz gets in ahead of John McQuillan to fire home Rangers' winner after 37 minutes at Celtic Park

PHOTOGRAPH: ALAN HARVEY

Rangers 2 St Johnstone 1

## Albertz, the crowned prince of Ibrox Park

Patrick Glenn sees Rangers lift their first trophy under Dick Advocaat's management

IT WAS not exactly the nightmare revisited but St Johnstone, as expected, had to endure further pain at the hands of Rangers at Celtic Park yesterday.

Much more spirited and coherent, and blatantly less collusive than they had been in last year's hiding, they took from the same opponents only three weeks earlier, the team from Perth lacked only the little wedge of luck that might at least have taken the match into extra-time.

But it would be stretching hypothesis beyond credibility to suggest that Rangers would have been denied their first trophy since they won the championship 18 months ago, as Saints did not create enough problems up front.

They did enjoy territorial advantage for lengthy periods, however, and those travelling fans who sang, "We love you, Saints" throughout the game were not exhibiting misplaced affection.

Having conceded the first goal so early that a loss of

nerve induced by bad memories would have been understandable. St Johnstone regrouped so successfully that they were level within two minutes and spent most of the time thereafter matching the Ibrox side in most areas.

"This gave us a little taste of what we can achieve and hopefully we can do it again," said Sandy Clark, the St Johnstone manager.

"We tried to warn the players what the atmosphere would be like in this situation but there was still tension and, as we feared, the only way you can know how to play it is to experience it. But after falling behind we came back quickly."

It was in attack that Rangers looked more dangerous, even during Saints' periods of ascendancy. Rod Wallace, Andrei Kanchelskis and Stephane Guivarch were quicker than Miguel Simao and George O'Boyle at the other end. More significantly, they were supported by mid-

field players more effective in the business of pushing forward at pace.

The exception to this general rule was Jorg Albertz, who managed at once to do hardly anything and everything during his 65 minutes on the field. Largely anonymous and at times appearing worryingly lethargic, the German still managed to stir himself just long enough to score the winning goal.

That effort eventually was a relief to the Rangers support, who had anticipated another emphatic victory over opponents their team had already beaten by an aggregate 11-0 in two league games this season. That expectation had been heightened by the early goal from Guivarch.

The move began with Sergio Porcino's lobbed pass forward to Kanchelskis on the right. The Russia international held off Gary Bolland as

he made his way to the dead-ball line and, from near the post, delivered it knee high to the Frenchman whose volley flew past Alan Mann.

That was an impressive finish but nothing like as spectacular as the one produced by Nick Dasovic — the Man of the Match award winner — for St Johnstone just two minutes later. Paul Kane's free-kick from the right was headed down by Alan Kerr.

Barry Ferguson slipped the ball towards Albertz in mid-field but he allowed it to run through his legs to Guivarch who waited until the German had moved forward before releasing the return ball which Albertz, with the help of a feint deflection, swept past Mann with his left foot from the edge of the area.

It was only the second cup final in St Johnstone's 114-year history and having lost the 1969 League Cup final 1-0 to Celtic, they are now sought for two. Rangers should be sated by previous successes but, to their whooping support, this one may be interpreted as an encouraging portent for what lies ahead under Dick Advocaat.

"I felt no pressure to win, I don't know why," the coach said later. "Walter Smith did a great job for Rangers but that is the past, and it's not counting any more. I am so pleased for our fans because it costs a lot of money to come to games, and again there were thousands here for us."

"It is a great feeling. Everyone expected us to win but we had to do it. We had done well against them before, but a third time is always difficult."



Six pack... Hick dispatches Gillespie

PHOTOGRAPH: BEN CURTIS



## Racing

# Champion show from Istabraq

Chris Hawkins

ISTABRAQ, the reigning champion hurdler, made it 12 wins from 14 runs over timber when comfortably taking the Hutton's Grace Hurdle over two and a half miles at Fairyhouse yesterday.

Charlie Swan bided his time on the 1-5 favourite and took up the running at the third last before easing his mount to beat Nomadic by half a length, with the sole British challenger Master Beveled back in third.

Tony McCoy partnered the David Evans-trained Master Beveled despite being in the middle of a 14-day whip ban — he was allowed to ride in Ireland as there was no Sunday racing here.

Istabraq is now 6-4 favourite with Hill's second Champion Hurdle at Cheltenham, followed by Blowing Wind and Dato Star, winner of Newcastle's Fighting Fifth Hurdle, at 12-1.

At Newbury on Saturday Willie Sanders entered the Champion Hurdle picture with victory in the Gerry Feilden Handicap Hurdle. Martin Pipe's 105,000gns purchase from the John Dunlop stable is a 16-1 shot for Cheltenham after making all the running to take advantage of a reasonable handicap mark which saw him receiving 10lb from the four-year-old Zafarabad.

The latter ran on strongly to finish third after apparently having no chance of turning for home. It was by no means a bad performance from Zafarabad, whom Richard Johnson reported hated the sticky ground, but whether he has the speed for the Champion remains the big question. He is a 20-1 chance.

Tee-ton Mill put up an exhibi-

tion round to take the Hennessy Gold Cup at the remarkably generous odds of 5-1, having drifted from 3-1 in the face of huge support for Seven Towers, who started a surprise 3-1 favourite.

Backers of Mary Reveley's chaser soon knew their fate, however, and the nine-year-old was pulled-up seven from home.

It was a puzzling effort and Mrs Reveley was not much the wiser yesterday, commenting: "He seems fine and I can't find anything wrong with him. We'll have to wait until the back man comes as my first inclination is that he probably tripped a nerve in his back when he twisted at the first fence. If he's all right he'll still go for the Welsh National."

Another big disappointment was The Tolseach, who was eventually pulled-up after being prominent on the first circuit. James Fanshawe, his trainer, put the poor run down to the race coming too quickly after his win at Ascot seven days previously.

Coomes Hill, another of nine pulled-up, was ridden without much restraint by Jamie Osborne, who was criticised by Walter Dennis, the trainer.

Tee-ton Mill, on whom Norman Williamson had little chance of winning, could reappear at Ascot in three weeks' time in the Betwara Cup, although the King George VI Chase and Welsh National are other possible immediate targets.

The long-term plan for the Grand National, for which he is quoted at 12-1 by Hill's, whose odds-man David Hood originally won 16-1, but was nearly knocked over in the rush.

"The National has always been the target and I wouldn't change," said trainer Venetia Williams.

## Home team dominate Japan Cup

FAITHFUL Son and Luso, the two British challengers, made little impact on the £1.7 million Japan Cup in Tokyo yesterday, finishing seventh and last, writes Chris Hawkins.

The race was dominated by the home-trained horses being won by El Condor Pasa from Air Groove, who was runner-up for the second successive year, and Special Week the 3-1 favourite.

Chief Bearheart, the Ca-

nadian entry, was fourth a nose ahead of the American mare Magnificent.

This was the third time in 17-year history of the event that Japanese-trained horses had filled the first three places.

At Worcester this afternoon Dirty Dozen (12-45) is an interesting runner in the opener. He was sixth to Arctic Camper at Cheltenham under a sympathetic ride on his reappearance, and looks capable of better.



Pair of aces... Norman Williamson and Tee-ton Mill after their big-race triumph at Newbury on Saturday

PHOTOGRAPH BY MICHAEL STEPHENS

## A tale of two sartorial tribes

Jamie Reid mixes with the well-heeled and ordinary punters on Hennessy day

THE Hennessy Gold Cup has long been regarded as one of the great socially unmissable fixtures of the racing lover's year and Saturday's reunion was no exception.

Hennessy day is a day for the high-rollers. An occasion for drama and spectacle on the track and exuberant spending in the bars and betting ring.

But it's also something of a tribal gathering and your choice of clothing proclaims which section of the racing parish you feel you belong to. Saturday's crowd could broadly be divided into two sartorial categories. People who wear hats and people who wouldn't be seen dead wearing hats.

The former contingent were well represented in the Annual Members' car park where the brown tribu-

most distinctive item of racing headgear, was particularly in evidence. There were worn and weathered looking tributes from the hunting tribes and this being the Hennessy, rakishly elegant tributes from Knightsbridge and South Kensington.

Traditional racing women used to favour Hermes or Liberty print headscarves. But nowadays they all seem to be fitted out in identical soft "Moppy" hats which may look like the remains of some unfortunate mink or seal bot, so the manufacturers claim, are actually constructed out of lycra and polyamide.

Racing folk like to take their children with them to events like the Hennessy and the public schools of southern England always seem to empty for the weekend, allowing assorted Prince Harry look-alikes to pull on their junior

sports jackets and corduroy trousers and join Mum, Dad, and big sister Tamara as everyone scoffs pheasant pâté and sips gin from the back of a Range Rover.

"I felt we ought to kick on with the picnic," explained a loud-voiced gent in a velvet-collared coat. "The weather was just what we needed to tip it down by the first race."

Over in the packed ground-floor bar of the Berkshire Stand the atmosphere was more Wimbledon dogs than the Countryside Rally.

Groups of loud-voiced London punters, bareheaded to a man, were standing with their legs apart and their feet pointing out as they tipped down copious amounts of lager and cognac chasers and cheered — and jeered — their selections throughout the afternoon.

One round and moustachioed man reacted badly to Shooting Light's defeat in the staying hurdle race. "Did you see that?" he belatedly. "That

was diabolical. That was a scandal. That jockey's an effing disgrace."

Other observers felt that the rotund man was a moron and suggested that the jockey in question, who happened to be Norman Williamson, had done just about everything he could to win short of picking his mount up and carrying it over the line. Half an hour later the self-same "Stormin' Norman" treated everyone to an exemplary display of horsemanship as he guided Tee-ton Mill to his crushing big-race victory.

The gelding's owners, those gambling shrews who run the Winning Line Tipping Service, were all bareheaded. They were also dapper, quiet and sober. Or at least they were until they picked up their £48,000 first prize.

Considering they'd also backed their horse at generous prices in the antepost market they could no doubt afford to celebrate in Newbury's champagne bar. That's where a bottle of Bollinger at

£49 a time is the only really acceptable accompaniment to a plate of Barrie Cope's oysters and Cornish crab meat.

Outside in the gathering gloom other less prosperous and successful racegoers were beginning to feel the strain.

One punter in a vivid blue fedora, which wasn't really streetwise and certainly wasn't country, had passed in front of a life-sized promotional photograph of Frankie Dettori. "Come on, Frankie," the punter yelled. "Don't just stand there grinning. Give us a lead-in winner." The photograph never replied.

Salamah scooped up at short odds in the last race and the lucky owner, composer Andrew Lloyd Webber, left the comfort of his private box to make an appearance in the unsaddling enclosure. He wasn't wearing a brown tribu-

hly hat, but he was sporting a theatrical tie and a grey suit with a hint of tweed. Everyone likes a uniform on Hennessy day.

## Worcester seven-race programme

CHRIS HAWKINS	TOP FORM
12.45 Dirty Dozen (any)	Another Chance
1.15 Play Games	Gratons
1.45 Silk Vestments	Three For A Glass
2.15 Maribou (any)	Riparian
2.45 Never No Doubt	Never No Doubt
3.15 Grosvenor	Woodhewer
3.45 Forest Thyme	

Left-handed circuit of 1m5f with 220yds run-in. Flat with easy turns, a very fair, galloping track. Going: Heavy. A. Donkeys blinkers. Seven-day winners: None. Unplaced first time or worse: None. Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since last outing. F.Fat.

12.45 WORCESTER RACECOURSE SHOP NOVICE HURDLE	2m 4f 12.548 (12 declared)
1 20933 Amelior (10) (9) G. P. 10-10-10	M. B. Farwell (7)
2 20934 Amelior (10) (9) G. P. 10-10-10	M. B. Farwell (7)
3 20935 Amelior (10) (9) G. P. 10-10-10	M. B. Farwell (7)
4 20936 Amelior (10) (9) G. P. 10-10-10	M. B. Farwell (7)
5 20937 Amelior (10) (9) G. P. 10-10-10	M. B. Farwell (7)
6 20938 Amelior (10) (9) G. P. 10-10-10	M. B. Farwell (7)
7 20939 Amelior (10) (9) G. P. 10-10-10	M. B. Farwell (7)
8 20940 Amelior (10) (9) G. P. 10-10-10	M. B. Farwell (7)
9 20941 Amelior (10) (9) G. P. 10-10-10	M. B. Farwell (7)
10 20942 Amelior (10) (9) G. P. 10-10-10	M. B. Farwell (7)

1.15 JOINT FOR 1998 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP AT WORCESTER HANDICAP CHASE	2m 2f 4.70 (6 declared)
1 20943 Amelior (10) (9) G. P. 10-10-10	M. B. Farwell (7)
2 20944 Amelior (10) (9) G. P. 10-10-10	M. B. Farwell (7)
3 20945 Amelior (10) (9) G. P. 10-10-10	M. B. Farwell (7)
4 20946 Amelior (10) (9) G. P. 10-10-10	M. B. Farwell (7)
5 20947 Amelior (10) (9) G. P. 10-10-10	M. B. Farwell (7)
6 20948 Amelior (10) (9) G. P. 10-10-10	M. B. Farwell (7)
7 20949 Amelior (10) (9) G. P. 10-10-10	M. B. Farwell (7)
8 20950 Amelior (10) (9) G. P. 10-10-10	M. B. Farwell (7)
9 20951 Amelior (10) (9) G. P. 10-10-10	M. B. Farwell (7)
10 20952 Amelior (10) (9) G. P. 10-10-10	M. B. Farwell (7)

1.45 WEATHERBYS TURF NEWS MALES' ONLY NOVICE HURDLE	2m 2f 2.250 (6 declared)
1 20953 Amelior (10) (9) G. P. 10-10-10	M. B. Farwell (7)
2 20954 Amelior (10) (9) G. P. 10-10-10	M. B. Farwell (7)
3 20955 Amelior (10) (9) G. P. 10-10-10	M. B. Farwell (7)
4 20956 Amelior (10) (9) G. P. 10-10-10	M. B. Farwell (7)
5 20957 Amelior (10) (9) G. P. 10-10-10	M. B. Farwell (7)
6 20958 Amelior (10) (9) G. P. 10-10-10	M. B. Farwell (7)
7 20959 Amelior (10) (9) G. P. 10-10-10	M. B. Farwell (7)
8 20960 Amelior (10) (9) G. P. 10-10-10	M. B. Farwell (7)
9 20961 Amelior (10) (9) G. P. 10-10-10	M. B. Farwell (7)
10 20962 Amelior (10) (9) G. P. 10-10-10	M. B. Farwell (7)

2.15 MIDLAND TECHNICAL TRANSLATIONS NOVICE CHASE	2m 4f 11.0yds £3,600 (7 declared)
1 20963 Amelior (10) (9) G. P. 10-10-10	M. B. Farwell (7)
2 20964 Amelior (10) (9) G. P. 10-10-10	M. B. Farwell (7)
3 20965 Amelior (10) (9) G. P. 10-10-10	M. B. Farwell (7)
4 20966 Amelior (10) (9) G. P. 10-10-10	M. B. Farwell (7)
5 20967 Amelior (10) (9) G. P. 10-10-10	M. B. Farwell (7)
6 20968 Amelior (10) (9) G. P. 10-10-10	M. B. Farwell (7)
7 20969 Amelior (10) (9) G. P. 10-10-10	M. B. Farwell (7)
8 20970 Amelior (10) (9) G. P. 10-10-10	M. B. Farwell (7)
9 20971 Amelior (10) (9) G. P. 10-10-10	M. B. Farwell (7)
10 20972 Amelior (10) (9) G. P. 10-10-10	M. B. Farwell (7)

KEEPING TRACK	COMMENTARY	RESULTS
WORCESTER	141	151
KELSO	142	152
FOLKESTONE	143	153
ALL COURSES COMMENTARY	09064 700 140	
ALL COURSES RESULTS	09064 700 150	

TheGuardian INTERACTIVE

## Kelso with guide to the form

CHRIS HAWKINS	TOP FORM
12.55 Chevalier Dance	Reverie (any)
1.25 Sleepy River	Sleepy River
1.55 Freddie Mack	All The Aces
2.25 Volodymyr	Volodymyr (any)
3.25 Tynley	Tynley

Left-handed track chase course of 1m4f, hurdles track 11m and sharper with tight turn away from the stands. Lengthy run-in of 140yds is uphill. Going: Heavy. A. Donkeys blinkers. Seven-day winners: None. Blinkered first time or worse: None.

12.55 JOGGIE BRIG NOVICE HURDLE	2m 11yds £2,941 (10 declared)
1 20973 Amelior (10) (9) G. P. 10-10-10	M. B. Farwell (7)
2 20974 Amelior (10) (9) G. P. 10-10-10	M. B. Farwell (7)
3 20975 Amelior (10) (9) G. P. 10-10-10	M. B. Farwell (7)
4 20976 Amelior (10) (9) G. P. 10-10-10	M. B. Farwell (7)
5 20977 Amelior (10) (9) G. P. 10-10-10	M. B. Farwell (7)
6 20978 Amelior (10) (9) G. P. 10-10-10	M. B. Farwell (7)
7 20979 Amelior (10) (9) G. P. 10-10-10	M. B. Farwell (7)
8 20980 Amelior (10) (9) G. P. 10-10-10	M. B. Farwell (7)
9 20981 Amelior (10) (9) G. P. 10-10-10	M. B. Farwell (7)
10 20982 Amelior (10) (9) G. P. 10-10-10	M. B. Farwell (7)

1.25 GLENGOYNE HIGHLAND MALT WHISKY NOVICE CHASE	2m 6f 11yds £3,290 (11 declared)
1 20983 Amelior (10) (9) G. P. 10-10-10	M. B. Farwell (7)
2 20984 Amelior (10) (9) G. P. 10-10-10	M. B. Farwell (7)
3 20985 Amelior (10) (9) G. P. 10-10-10	M. B. Farwell (7)
4 20986 Amelior (10) (9) G. P. 10-10-10	M. B. Farwell (7)
5 20987 Amelior (10) (9) G. P. 10-10-10	M. B. Farwell (7)
6 20988 Amelior (10) (9) G. P. 10-10-10	M. B. Farwell (7)
7 20989 Amelior (10) (9) G. P. 10-10-10	M. B. Farwell (7)
8 20990 Amelior (10) (9) G. P. 10-10-10	M. B. Farwell (7)
9 20991 Amelior (10) (9) G. P. 10-10-10	M. B. Farwell (7)
10 20992 Amelior (10) (9) G. P. 10-10-10	M. B. Farwell (7)

1.55 ERIC SCARTH MEMORIAL HANDICAP HURDLE	2m 6f 11yds £2,749 (4 declared)
1 20993 Amelior (10) (9) G. P. 10-10-10	M. B. Farwell (7)
2 20994 Amelior (10) (9) G. P. 10-10-10	M. B. Farwell (7)
3 20995 Amelior (10) (9) G. P. 10-10-10	M. B. Farwell (7)
4 20996 Amelior (10) (9) G. P. 10-10-10	M. B. Farwell (7)

2.25 MARTIN CURRIE CHAMPION HANDICAP CHASE	3m 11f 53.247 (9 declared)
1 20997 Amelior (10) (9) G. P. 10-10-10	M. B. Farwell (7)
2 20998 Amelior (10) (9) G. P. 10-10-10	M. B. Farwell (7)
3 20999 Amelior (10) (9) G. P. 10-10-10	M. B. Farwell (7)
4 21000 Amelior (10) (9) G. P. 10-10-10	M. B. Farwell (7)
5 21001 Amelior (10) (9) G. P. 10-10-10	M. B. Farwell (7)
6 21002 Amelior (10) (9) G. P. 10-10-10	M. B. Farwell (7)
7 21003 Amelior (10) (9) G. P. 10-10-10	M. B. Farwell (7)
8 21004 Amelior (10) (9) G. P. 10-10-10	M. B. Farwell (7)
9 21005 Amelior (10) (9) G. P. 10-10-10	M. B. Farwell (7)
10 21006 Amelior (10) (9) G. P. 10-10-10	M. B. Farwell (7)

3.05 DAILY MAIL HANDICAP CHASE IN MEMORY OF LADY HARRISWORTH BLUNT	3m 21f 24.250 (5 declared)
1 21007 Amelior (10) (9) G. P. 10-10-10	M. B. Farwell (7)
2 21008 Amelior (10) (9) G. P. 10-10-10	M. B. Farwell (7)
3 21009 Amelior (10) (9) G. P. 10-10-10	M. B. Farwell (7)
4 21010 Amelior (10) (9) G. P. 10-10-10	M. B. Farwell (7)
5 21011 Amelior (10) (9) G. P. 10-10-10	M. B. Farwell (7)

3.35 BIGGIN HILL MALES' ONLY INTERMEDIATE OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE	2m 11yds £1,203 (10 declared)
1 21012 Amelior (10) (9) G. P. 10-10-10	M. B. Farwell (7)
2 21013 Amelior (10) (9) G. P. 10-10-10	M. B. Farwell (7)
3 21014 Amelior (10) (9) G. P. 10-10-10	M. B. Farwell (7)
4 21015 Amelior (10) (9) G. P. 10-10-10	M. B. Farwell (7)
5 21016 Amelior (10) (9) G. P. 10-10-10	M. B. Farwell (7)
6 21017 Amelior (10) (9) G. P. 10-10-10	M. B. Farwell (7)
7 21018 Amelior (10) (9) G. P. 10-10-10	M. B. Farwell (7)
8 21019 Amelior (10) (9) G. P. 10-10-10	M. B. Farwell (7)
9 21020 Amelior (10) (9) G. P. 10-10-10	M. B. Farwell (7)
10 21021 Amelior (10) (9) G. P. 10-10-10	M. B. Farwell (7)

1.25 GLENGOYNE HIGHLAND MALT WHISKY NOVICE CHASE	2m 6f 11yds £3,290 (11 declared)
1 20983 Amelior (10) (9) G. P. 10-10-10	M. B. Farwell (7)
2 20984 Amelior (10) (9) G. P. 10-10-10	M. B. Farwell (7)
3 20985 Amelior (10) (9) G. P. 10-10-10	M. B. Farwell (7)
4 20986 Amelior (10) (9) G. P. 10-10-10	M. B. Farwell (7)
5 20987 Amelior (10) (9) G. P. 10-10-10	M. B. Farwell (7)
6 20988 Amelior (10) (9) G. P. 10-10-10	M. B. Farwell (7)
7 20989 Amelior (10) (9) G. P. 10-10-10	M. B. Farwell (7)
8 20990 Amelior (10) (9) G. P. 10-10-10	M. B. Farwell (7)
9 20991 Amelior (10) (9) G. P. 10-10-10	M. B. Farwell (7)
10 20992 Amelior (10) (9) G. P. 10-10-10	M. B. Farwell (7)

1.55 ERIC SCARTH MEMORIAL HANDICAP HURDLE	2m 6f 11yds £2,749 (4 declared)
1 20993 Amelior (10) (9) G. P. 10-10-10	M. B. Farwell (7)
2 20994 Amelior (10) (9) G. P. 10-10-10	M. B. Farwell (7)
3 20995 Amelior (10) (9) G. P. 10-10-10	M. B. Farwell (7)
4 20996 Amelior (10) (9) G. P. 10-10-10	M. B. Farwell (7)

2.25 MARTIN CURRIE CHAMPION HANDICAP CHASE	3m 11f 53.247 (9 declared)
1 20997 Amelior (10) (9) G. P. 10-10-10	M. B. Farwell (7)
2 20998 Amelior (10) (9) G. P. 10-10-10	M. B. Farwell (7)
3 20999 Amelior (10) (9) G. P. 10-10-10	M. B. Farwell (7)
4 21000 Amelior (10) (9) G. P. 10-10-10	M. B. Farwell (7)
5 21001 Amelior (10) (9) G. P. 10-10-10	M. B. Farwell (7)
6 21002 Amelior (10) (9) G. P. 10-10-10	M. B. Farwell (7)
7 21003 Amelior (10) (9) G. P. 10-10-10	M. B. Farwell (7)
8 21004 Amelior (10) (9) G. P. 10-10-10	M. B. Farwell (7)
9 21005 Amelior (10) (9) G. P. 10-10-10	M. B. Farwell (7)
10 21006 Amelior (10) (9) G. P. 10-10-10	M. B. Farwell (7)

3.05 DAILY MAIL HANDICAP CHASE IN MEMORY OF LADY HARRISWORTH BLUNT	3m 21f 24.250 (5 declared)
1 21007 Amelior (10) (9) G. P. 10-10-10	M. B. Farwell (7)
2 21008 Amelior (10) (9) G. P. 10-10-10	M. B. Farwell (7)
3 21009 Amelior (10) (9) G. P. 10-10-10	M. B. Farwell (7)
4 21010 Amelior (10) (9) G. P. 10-10-10	M. B. Farwell (7)
5 21011 Amelior (10) (9) G. P. 10-10-10	M. B. Farwell (7







**Robert Armstrong** sees Australia wriggle to victory at Twickenham as a late Eales penalty proves a painful kick in the teeth

The spoils of Test rugby often go to those who commit fewer errors rather than set the world on fire, and so it proved as England infringed at inconvenient moments whereas the Wallabies pursued risk-free tactics and kicked the goals that mat-

**'We have  
neither one style  
nor the other,  
neither Plan A  
nor Plan B' –  
Clive Woodward**

The Wallabies flew home yesterday having put down an important marker for next year's World Cup with victories over the southern hemisphere's only serious contenders, the All Blacks and Ireland, on successive weekends.

Don Macqueen, the coach who was lambasted by the Australian media only 12 months ago, has guided his side to 11 victories in 13 Tests this year, including a 40-10 thrashing of the South Africa. Equally important, Macqueen has capped his side with a series of wins that are physically tough, very fast and good ball-handlers. I think you can overcoach players when key decision-makers are what you really need. The way to beat these teams is to put a player on the pitch than they do."

There was nothing to choose between the teams in terms of pace, whether it was over 10 metres or 40; each time the All Blacks were in the scrum, the All Blacks tried to show the opposition a clean pair of heels he was pulled

Ireland 13 South Africa 27

**Robert Kitson** sees Ireland's savage pride test South African resilience and athleticism

Only England now stand between Gary Telchmann's dream and an 18th consecutive victory for the Springboks. The place them above every other side in the game's history and complete a tour grand slam. If Lawrence Daggall and company can do it, they will be a side exhibited by the Ireland pack nothing is impossible, but there is a mood of over-optimism and a false assistance about this Springbok team.

Even Keith Wood, who left

be the tightest side in world rugby. In that respect I've never known a side like that.

Dressed in his bib and tucker en route to the post-match dinner, it was almost impossible to recognise the smiling, friendly, and slightly maniacal figure who spent the entire match rampaging between a Bok and a hard playing, 19-year-old Springbok. It was a far cry from the infamous "Battle of Pretoria" in June.

**Welsh Premier Division:** Pontypridd 44 Neath 7

## Cost of being true rebels may be painful for Pontypridd

**Paul Rees**

**P**ONTYFRIDD like to call their Sardinia Road ground the House of Pain, but the club is being felt there at the moment is their own, a consequence of the uncertainty over the club's future.

They may have been arguably the most successful club in Wales this decade, and they remain second behind Llanelli after this routine victory over Northampton.

As champions and yet be denied the Premiership status whereas Newport could finish bottom and be relegated.

When the Welsh Rugby Union picks four clubs in January to compete next season in a British league and Cardiff, Swansea and Llanelli are likely to be there and there is a feeling that Newport should be the fourth: they have been in decline for 20 years but their name is held still to count for something. So what little significance the Premier Division had this season has gone.

"If the WRU does not back us, this club as we know it is finished," says Pontyfridd captain and Wales international half Neil Jenkins. "I accept that Newport are a big club,

**Tower block at Twickenham . . . England's captain Lawrence Dallaglio rises above the norm** PHOTOGRAPH: TOM JENKINS

down well short of the line. Catf did race clear once — and off-loaded to one of the touch judges, Paddy O'Brien; on another occasion the Bath No. 10 was dispossessed in a one-on-one when a grub kick or a chip-and-chase were obvious options.

As ever, England's inconsistent backs rarely showed the ingenuity of purpose or the raw explosive power that breaks tackles and creates genuine scoring chances. "We want to play a fast, physical

game, multiphase rugby that gets in behind the opposition and allows us to exploit our scoring capacity," declared Dallaglio with the kind of ambition that will be needed to take the battle to the Springboks at Twickenham.

Only once did England pull all the pieces together and scatter the Wallabies with a scoring move that briefly trailed clouds of glory. After Martin Johnson won a restart, Healey, Matt Perry and Darren Garsforth in turn ran deep into the

However, England's 11-lead was shortlived: four minutes from time Catt's previous failure to kick the conversion was duly punished by Ealeaia who steered home his fourth penalty goal after a ruck offence by Neil Back. As Dallaglio remarked: "We were on the wrong side of a very close game, we let it slip away."

**SCORES:** England: Tyns Gusscott  
(Northampton) Catt 2, Australia: Queensland  
Eales 4.

**ENGLAND:** Perry (Bath), Underwood  
(Northampton), de Gooijer (Gloucestershire) (both  
Bath), Huxley (Leicester), Grayson  
(Northampton), Catt, Sath, 32min  
Gawson (Northampton), Leonard  
(Harrow), Cockcroft (Gloucestershire), Gorton  
(Harrow), [all Leicester],  
[all Northampton], Dailighe (Wessex), cap  
Buck (Leicester), [all (Surrey)].

**AUSTRALIA:** Latham Little, Harber  
[all Queensland], Foley (NSW),  
Gordon (NSW), Grayson (VIC),  
Kearns (Queensland), Gray, Queensland  
(48), Bishops, Bowerman (both NSW), Eales  
(capt), Cockcroft (both Queensland),  
[all QLD], [all VIC], 49min. Wessex (both  
Queensland).

**References:** P Morris (New Zealand),

**Ian Malin** finds no obvious signs of relief for the long suffering

**P**ERHAPS it was the dreadful rain over the airwaves from Perth, perhaps because of the atrocious London weather, but the England supporters clamoring on to trains at Waterloo seemed unusually subdued on their journey to Twickenham.

After all, even in the thickest of overcoats and with the largest of hipflasks the ground no longer seemed so inviting to an England supporter. Since Roy Andrews' "drop kick that sailed around the world" against Australia in the 1995 World Cup, England had met opposition from the southern hemisphere's Big Three a dozen times; they

had failed to win once. This autumn, however, London, Edinburgh, Glasgow and Edinburgh, northern hemisphere sides had been losing again; heroically, unsluckingly and pluckily, but still losing, and in conditions in which they hope to end the drought in the coming year. Africa, Australia and New Zealand in next year's World Cup.

When Lawrence Daggillo talks about being able to stand "toe to toe" with the best in the world he is correct. The English and the Australian's hopeless cricketers the rugby team can sing it out with the heavyweights. England's pack punched its weight superbly, the defence never once dropped its guard. They swarmed over the ball, and the Australians threatened to cut loose in the third quarter, but they could not quite summon up that knock-out blow.

When John Eales was asked about Milka Catt's missed conversion of Jeremy Guscott's try 12 minutes from time, the Australia captain answered: "When Catt missed that conversion we knew we could be awarded a penalty at the other end. It was a kind of day that penalties rather than tries were going to decide the game."

So when Eales succeeded within seven minutes with that winning penalty, with the ease of a Greg Norman nine-iron into the wind, England's supporters knew that 12 defeats would soon be converted into 13.

Catt is, in the words of

that well-known rugby fan T.S. Eliot, "the original conjuring Catt, all his inventions are off his own bat". The 50 minutes he was on the field summed up the career of the player who has become to English rugby what Graeme Hick is to English cricket. It was his usual habit of the sublime and the ridiculous.

It is not his fault that, like Hick, he is southern African-born, but he is becoming a scapegoat for Twickenham's more belligerent supporters. They forget his brilliant debut in 1986, when a year ago before he was replaced by the more reliable Paul Grayson at half-time. Instead they remember his wretched display against Argentina in 1986, when he was replaced by a fly-half who can control an international in the eye of a storm. But as he said: "It's not just the No. 9 and No. 10 who have to take responsibility. There was no one out wide who ran with confidence, and I and I was the people around me who react to what I do."

“Hopefully Clive [Woodward] will bite the bullet and select the same team against South Africa. We played some good rugby and scored a great try. This team has the right balance.”

Woodward did pick the right team to play a fast game hunk on a day when fireworks greeted the sides there were few pyrotechnics behind either scrum. One change the English coach must surely make is to replace the makeshift wing Austin Healey, like Catt a gifted versatile footballer but who still looks like a scrum-half playing out of position.

But on a dank day it was ironic that Australia, those standard-bearers of the 15-man game, should beat boring, stolid, conservative old England with four penalties. These days Eales is something of a diplomat, so he is careful of his winning kicks. "Every kid in Australia practices in the back yard dreaming of being 'Dusty Hare'," his tongue must have been so far into his cheek that he probably needs surgery.

Eales was smiling, which is better than the crowd in Brisbane last June who were laughing. However, the England players on their way back to Waterloo on Saturday night could have cried.

**World Cup, European Pool Three**  
Scotland 85 Portugal 11

### Michael Prestage at Murrayfield

And so the words of Scotland's manager Arthur Hastie that this win had "put the smile back on the face of Scottish rugby" were put into perspective. A crowd of barely 6,000 was testimony to the transience of the triumph.

The build-up to the game had been overshadowed by criticism of the SRU and its executive board chairman Duncan Paterson, including a call by a Scottish newspaper for a boycott of the match. Within hours of the final whistle Paterson had decided now was the time to go.

The Scotland coach Jim Telfer, who had not caught the smiling habit, agreed that winning after a barren spell at Murrayfield stretching back 20 months was important for the players. But it was hard to see what benefits could be gleaned from such a woeful mismatch. Defending was Portugal's priority and 13 tries conceded was the result.

Gregor Townsend played at full-back rather than his preferred fly-half position. In a far from resounding endorsement Telfer pronounced himself

"reasonably pleased" with him. Kenny Logan, seeking to re-establish himself at international level, was singled out by the coach for the missed tackle which led to Hoffman's try.

The centre pairing of Jamie Mayer and John Leslie collected five tries between them. Leslie's pair coming within the space of 10 minutes as the Scotland three-quarters plundered points in the acres of space available.

By half-time the 50-point mark was passed and talk was of whether Scotland's 88-0 defeat of Ivory Coast in 1995 could be bettered. Portugal's best effort had been a missed drop-goal attempt.

Although this was the biggest day in their rugby history, Portugal rested several key figures for Wednesday's crunch World Cup qualifier here against Spain. Even so they got on the scoreboard thanks to s' Nuno Mourao penalty just before the hour.

Hoffman, Australian-born with a Scottish grandparent, was to be the visitors' hero. First he scored a drop goal and then in injury-time he completed a sprint for the line from inside his own half.

[illegible]

## Wales launch investigation after JPR blows whistle on drug abuse

**A**LEGATIONS of drug abuse in rugby union made by the former Lions and Wales full-back JPR Williams are to be investigated by the Welsh union.

"Taking banned substances is fairly rare and most of it is done in the off-season," Williams claims in a newspaper article. "It is fairly well recognised that certain players have been using anabolic steroids and haven't been tested."

A WRU spokesman said yesterday: "JPR's accusations are obviously serious ones although it does seem strange that he has not voiced his concern directly.

It is now down to the union to follow through what has been alleged."

Northampton's director of rugby Ian McGeoch said yesterday that the allegation by the referee Trevor Fisher that he was elbowed by Jon Phillips, who was sent against Moseley on Friday, "is one of those stupid things. I think you will find that nothing actually happened and he won't even get a suspension."

McGeoch added: "This is senseless. The referee has got to be very careful not to let his view and what he does. It could be the end of his [Phillips's] career."

Gregor Townsend played at full-back rather than his preferred fly-half position. In a far from resounding endorsement Telfer professed himself



سكزا من الامل

FA Carling Premiership

	P	Home						Away						GD	P
		W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A				
Aston Villa	14	5	1	1	13	8	3	4	0	9	4	10	29	25	
Man Utd	14	6	2	0	21	8	2	2	2	9	8	14	28	24	
West Ham	15	4	3	1	12	9	3	2	2	8	7	4	26	22	
Arsenal	15	4	4	0	11	3	2	3	2	4	4	8	25	21	
Chelsea	13	4	3	0	11	4	2	3	1	11	9	9	24	20	
Leeds	15	4	2	1	10	3	1	6	1	12	11	8	23	19	
Middlesbrough	15	3	4	0	12	5	2	4	2	12	12	7	23	18	
Liverpool	15	3	3	2	15	10	3	1	3	11	9	7	22	18	
Derby	15	2	3	2	6	6	3	3	2	9	8	1	21	16	
Wimbledon	15	3	3	1	11	8	2	2	4	8	17	-6	20	15	
Newcastle	15	4	2	2	13	10	1	2	4	6	9	0	19	15	
Tottenham	15	3	2	2	11	12	2	2	4	8	11	-4	19	15	
Leicester	15	3	2	2	9	8	1	4	3	7	10	-2	18	14	
Everton	15	1	4	2	2	5	3	2	3	8	10	-5	18	13	
Charlton	15	2	3	2	13	8	1	4	3	9	15	-1	16	13	
Sheff Wed	15	3	2	2	7	3	1	2	5	7	12	-1	16	13	
Coventry	15	3	2	3	9	10	1	1	5	4	11	-8	15	13	
Nottm Forest	15	1	4	3	6	9	1	1	5	6	15	-12	11	10	
Southampton	15	1	2	5	9	17	1	2	4	3	14	-19	10	9	
Blackburn	15	2	1	4	9	10	0	2	6	5	14	-10	9	8	

Premiership results

Aston Villa (4-2) Man Utd (1-1)	Leeds (2-1) Arsenal (1-1)	Sheff Wed (1-1) Tottenham (1-1)	Blackburn (1-1) Everton (1-1)	Charlton (1-1) Nottm Forest (1-1)	Southampton (1-1) Derby (1-1)	Wimbledon (1-1) Newcastle (1-1)	Coventry (1-1) Leicester (1-1)	Sheff Wed (1-1) Tottenham (1-1)	Blackburn (1-1) Everton (1-1)	Charlton (1-1) Nottm Forest (1-1)	Southampton (1-1) Derby (1-1)	Wimbledon (1-1) Newcastle (1-1)	Coventry (1-1) Leicester (1-1)
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Non-league

Conference	Chesham (1-1) Maidstone (1-1)	Chesham (1-1) Maidstone (1-1)	Chesham (1-1) Maidstone (1-1)	Chesham (1-1) Maidstone (1-1)	Chesham (1-1) Maidstone (1-1)	Chesham (1-1) Maidstone (1-1)	Chesham (1-1) Maidstone (1-1)	Chesham (1-1) Maidstone (1-1)	Chesham (1-1) Maidstone (1-1)	Chesham (1-1) Maidstone (1-1)	Chesham (1-1) Maidstone (1-1)	Chesham (1-1) Maidstone (1-1)	Chesham (1-1) Maidstone (1-1)
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Nationwide League

FIRST DIVISION													SECOND DIVISION													THIRD DIVISION												
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts		P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts		P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts															
Sheff Wed	14	5	1	1	13	8	3	4	0	9	4	10	29																									
Man Utd	14	6	2	0	21	8	2	2	2	9	8	14	28																									
West Ham	15	4	3	1	12	9	3	2	2	8	7	4	26																									
Arsenal	15	4	4	0	11	3	2	3	2	4	4	8	25																									
Chelsea	13	4	3	0	11	4	2	3	1	11	9	9	24																									
Leeds	15	4	2	1	10	3	1	6	1	12	11	8	23																									
Middlesbrough	15	3	4	0	12	5	2	4	2	12	12	7	23																									
Liverpool	15	3	3	2	15	10	3	1	11	9	7	22																										
Derby	15	2	3	2	6	6	3	3	2	9	8	1	21																									
Wimbledon	15	3	3	1	11	8	2	2	4	8	17	-6	20																									
Newcastle	15	4	2	2	13	10	1	2	4	6	9	0	19																									
Tottenham	15	3	2	2	11	12	2	2	4	8	11	-4	19																									
Leicester	15	3	2	2	9	8	1	4	3	7	10	-2	18																									
Everton	15	1	4	2	2	5	3	2	3	8	10	-5	18																									
Charlton	15	2	3	2	13	8	1	4	3	9	15	-1	16																									
Sheff Wed	15	3	2	2	7	3	1	2	5	7	12	-1	16																									
Coventry	15	3	2	3	9	10	1	1	5	4	11	-8	15																									
Nottm Forest	15	1	4	3	6	9	1	1	5	6	15	-12	11																									
Southampton	15	1	2	5	9	17	1	2	4	3	14	-19	10																									
Blackburn	15	2	1	4	9	10	0	2	6	5	14	-10	9																									

First Division	Sheff Wed (1-1) Tottenham (1-1)	Blackburn (1-1) Everton (1-1)	Charlton (1-1) Nottm Forest (1-1)	Southampton (1-1) Derby (1-1)	Wimbledon (1-1) Newcastle (1-1)	Coventry (1-1) Leicester (1-1)	Sheff Wed (1-1) Tottenham (1-1)	Blackburn (1-1) Everton (1-1)	Charlton (1-1) Nottm Forest (1-1)	Southampton (1-1) Derby (1-1)	Wimbledon (1-1) Newcastle (1-1)	Coventry (1-1) Leicester (1-1)
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Non-league

Conference	Chesham (1-1) Maidstone (1-1)	Chesham (1-1) Maidstone (1-1)	Chesham (1-1) Maidstone (1-1)	Chesham (1-1) Maidstone (1-1)	Chesham (1-1) Maidstone (1-1)	Chesham (1-1) Maidstone (1-1)	Chesham (1-1) Maidstone (1-1)	Chesham (1-1) Maidstone (1-1)	Chesham (1-1) Maidstone (1-1)	Chesham (1-1) Maidstone (1-1)	Chesham (1-1) Maidstone (1-1)	Chesham (1-1) Maidstone (1-1)	Chesham (1-1) Maidstone (1-1)
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Scotland

Scotland										Europe									
PREMIER LEAGUE										ITALY									
Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Goal Diff	Pos	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Goal Diff	Pos
Aberdeen	15	8	2	5	22	13	20	+9	1	Florenzia	11	7	1	3	22	12	23	+10	1
Blackburn	15	6	3	6	18	15	15	+3	2	Parma	11	5	4	2	15	12	19	+3	2
Blackpool	16	7	5	4	20	16	24	+4	3	Perugia	11	5	3	3	14	12	18	+2	3
Chelsea	15	8	5	2	21	12	23	+9	4	Reggina	11	5	3	3	14	14	18	0	4
Derby	15	4	4	7	18	21	13	-3	5	Verona	11	6	3	2	12	14	19	-2	5
Everton	15	4	4	7	16	19	16	-3	6	Atalanta	11	5	3	3	13	12	18	+1	6
Leeds	15	4	3	8	19	21	15	-2	7	Internazionale	11	5	5	1	20	3	17	+17	7
Liverpool	14	4	6	4	15	12	19	-3	8	Lazio	12	7	2	3	15	6	19	+9	8
Manchester Utd	15	9	3	3	18	13	17	+5	9	Milan	11	4	4	3	13	17	17	-4	9
Manchester City	15	8	4	3	20	12	20	+8	10	Fiorentina	11	4	4	3	13	17	17	-4	10
Newcastle	16	2	3	11	13	22	14	-9	11	Genoa	11	4	2	5	10	18	14	-8	11
Sheff Wed	15	3	3	9	13	22	14	-9	12	Carpi	11	4	2	5	10	18	14	-8	12
Sheff Utd	15	3	3	9	13	22	14	-9	13	Udinese	11	2	6	3	10	19	14	-9	13
Wolves	15	3	3	9	13	22	14	-9	14	Parma	11	4	2	5	10	18	14	-8	14
* (Not including last round)																			
Premier League - (20) 1. Chelsea Utd (21) 2. Arsenal (20) 3. Tottenham Hotspur (19) 4. Manchester Utd (18) 5. Liverpool (17) 6. Manchester City (16) 7. Blackburn (15) 8. Derby (14) 9. Everton (13) 10. Newcastle (12) 11. Sheff Wed (11) 12. Sheff Utd (10) 13. Wolves (9) 14. Nottm Forest (8) 15. Charlton (7) 16. Leicester (6) 17. Middlesbrough (5) 18. Wimbledon (4) 19. Blackpool (3) 20. Reading (2) 21. Barnsley (1) 22. Luton (0) 23. Bury (0) 24. Exeter (0) 25. Gillingham (0) 26. Grimsby (0) 27. Hartlepool (0) 28. Huddersfield (0) 29. Millwall (0) 30. Notts County (0) 31. Peterborough (0) 32. Rotherham (0) 33. Shrewsbury (0) 34. Southend (0) 35. Swindon (0) 36. Torquay (0) 37. Walsley (0) 38. Walsingham (0) 39. Weymouth (0) 40. Yeovil (0) 41. York (0) 42. Barnet (0) 43. Brentford (0) 44. Brentford (0) 45. Brentford (0) 46. Brentford (0) 47. Brentford (0) 48. Brentford (0) 49. Brentford (0) 50. Brentford (0) 51. Brentford (0) 52. Brentford (0) 53. Brentford (0) 54. Brentford (0) 55. 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Scotland

Premier League	Sheff Wed (1-1) Tottenham (1-1)	Blackburn (1-1) Everton (1-1)	Charlton (1-1) Nottm Forest (1-1)	Southampton (1-1) Derby (1-1)	Wimbledon (1-1) Newcastle (1-1)	Coventry (1-1) Leicester (1-1)	Sheff Wed (1-1) Tottenham (1-1)	Blackburn (1-1) Everton (1-1)	Charlton (1-1) Nottm Forest (1-1)	Southampton (1-1) Derby (1-1)	Wimbledon (1-1) Newcastle (1-1)	Coventry (1-1) Leicester (1-1)
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Scotland

First Division	Sheff Wed (1-1) Tottenham (1-1)	Blackburn (1-1) Everton (1-1)	Charlton (1-1) Nottm Forest (1-1)	Southampton (1-1) Derby (1-1)	Wimbledon (1-1) Newcastle (1-1)	Coventry (1-1) Leicester (1-1)	Sheff Wed (1-1) Tottenham (1-1)	Blackburn (1-1) Everton (1-1)	Charlton (1-1) Nottm Forest (1-1)	Southampton (1-1) Derby (1-1)	Wimbledon (1-1) Newcastle (1-1)	Coventry (1-1) Leicester (1-1)
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Scotland

Conference	Chesham (1-1) Maidstone (1-1)	Chesham (1-1) Maidstone (1-1)	Chesham (1-1) Maidstone (1-1)	Chesham (1-1) Maidstone (1-1)	Chesham (1-1) Maidstone (1-1)	Chesham (1-1) Maidstone (1-1)	Chesham (1-1) Maidstone (1-1)	Chesham (1-1) Maidstone (1-1)	Chesham (1-1) Maidstone (1-1)	Chesham (1-1) Maidstone (1-1)	Chesham (1-1) Maidstone (1-1)	Chesham (1-1) Maidstone (1-1)	Chesham (1-1) Maidstone (1-1)
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Europe

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	P	P				
Aberdeen	14	5	1	1	13	8	3	4	0	9	4	10	29
Man Utd	14	6	2	0	21	8	2	2	2	9	8	14	28
West Ham	15	4	3	1	12	9	3	2	2	8	7	4	26
Arsenal	15	4	4	0	11	3	2	3	2	4	4	8	25
Chelsea	13	4	3	0	11	4	2	3	1	11	9	9	24
Leeds	15	4	2	1	10	3	1	6	1	12	11	8	23
Middlesbrough	15	3	4	0	12	5	2	4	2	12	12	7	23
Liverpool	15	3	3	2	15	10	3	1	11	9	7	22	
Derby	15	2	3	2	6	6	3	3	2	9	8	1	21
Wimbledon	15	3	3	1	11	8	2	2	4	8	17	-6	20
Newcastle	15	4	2	2	13	10	1	2	4	6	9	0	19
Tottenham	15	3	2	2	11	12	2	2	4	8	11	-4	19
Leicester	15	3	2	2	9	8	1	4	3	7	10	-2	18
Everton	15	1	4	2	2	5	3	2	3	8	10	-5	18
Charlton	15	2	3	2	13	8	1	4	3	9	15	-1	16
Sheff Wed	15	3	2	2	7	3	1	2	5	7	12	-1	16
Coventry	15	3	2	3	9	10	1	1	5	4	11	-8	15
Nottm Forest	15	1	4	3	6	9	1	1	5	6	15	-12	11
Southampton	15	1	2	5	9	17	1	2	4	3	14	-19	10
Blackburn	15	2	1	4	9	10	0	2	6	5	14	-10	9

Europe

Premier League	Sheff Wed (1-1) Tottenham (1-1)	Blackburn (1-1) Everton (1-1)	Charlton (1-1) Nottm Forest (1-1)	Southampton (1-1) Derby (1-1)	Wimbledon (1-1) Newcastle (1-1)	Coventry (1-1) Leicester (1-1)	Sheff Wed (1-1) Tottenham (1-1)	Blackburn (1-1) Everton (1-1)	Charlton (1-1) Nottm Forest (1-1)	Southampton (1-1) Derby (1-1)	Wimbledon (1-1) Newcastle (1-1)	Coventry (1-1) Leicester (1-1)
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Europe

First Division	Sheff Wed (1-1) Tottenham (1-1)	Blackburn (1-1) Everton (1-1)	Charlton (1-1) Nottm Forest (1-1)	Southampton (1-1) Derby (1-1)	Wimbledon (1-1) Newcastle (1-1)	Coventry (1-1) Leicester (1-1)	Sheff Wed (1-1) Tottenham (1-1)	Blackburn (1-1) Everton (1-1)	Charlton (1-1) Nottm Forest (1-1)	Southampton (1-1) Derby (1-1)	Wimbledon (1-1) Newcastle (1-1)	Coventry (1-1) Leicester (1-1)
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Europe

Conference	Chesham (1-1) Maidstone (1-1)	Chesham (1-1) Maidstone (1-1)	Chesham (1-1) Maidstone (1-1)	Chesham (1-1) Maidstone (1-1)	Chesham (1-1) Maidstone (1-1)	Chesham (1-1) Maidstone (1-1)	Chesham (1-1) Maidstone (1-1)	Chesham (1-1) Maidstone (1-1)	Chesham (1-1) Maidstone (1-1)	Chesham (1-1) Maidstone (1-1)	Chesham (1-1) Maidstone (1-1)	Chesham (1-1) Maidstone (1-1)	Chesham (1-1) Maidstone (1-1)
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Nationwide League review

SWITCH found there was life after the profligate David Johnson when Jamie Scowcroft assumed the mantle with a hat-trick at Crewe which took George Burley's team into second place behind Sunderland.

While Johnson recovers from injury, Scowcroft was on target in the 3-0 win over 37 and 87 minutes and then from the penalty spot in the 74th against Crewe, who are rooted to the bottom with 11 points from 30 games.

Ipswich are two points ahead of Watford and three clear of Birmingham, who rose from eighth to fourth on the back of a 4-2 home win over struggling Bristol City.

Nicky Forster (42 minutes) and Michael Johnson (72) and Peter Ndlovu (11) supplied the home goals and Andy Thorpe and Soren Andersen struck for City. Trevor Francis was delighted with

First Division

Forster, who played despite being "only 75 per cent fit". Bolton were also four-goal scorers, winning without reply at the Reebok Stadium derby with Bury as Colin Todd's completed three victories in eight days. Michael Johnson (21, 37) and Armar Quinlan (64, 67) struck as their team moved to fifth.

Queens Park Rangers enjoyed a surprisingly easy victory at Bradford City, winning 3-0, and Port Vale and Tranmere shared a 2-2 draw at Vale Park, where Martin Foyle scored the best goals.

Stockport's 5-0 success against Portsmouth at Edgeley Park came through two goals in a minute early in the second half.

Grimsby's 1-0 win over Swindon saw them leapfrog the Wilfers club in a contest made more goals and a 30th-minute strike from Jack Lester.

Second Division

Luton, who travel to Sunderland for a League Cup quarter-final tomorrow, will do so in good heart after their 1-1 draw with Manchester City at Kenilworth Road.

Joe Royle's side took a first-half lead with their captain Andy Morrison's header but the Luton substitute Gary Doherty equalised 14 minutes from time, again with his head from a corner.

"We are losing money but if we can get to the semi-finals it will help," said David Kohler, the Luton chairman, who added that the club plan a High Court appeal against the Government's decision to deny them the permission to build a 20,000 all-seater stadium.

"We are doing our best to keep the team intact and as long as we stay in the cup we can do that. Nobody will

Third Division

LONDON'S championship challenge gathered pace with Leyton Orient and Brentford both recording wins to increase the pressure on the leaders.

Leeds United, buoyed by Halifax's 2-2 draw with Mansfield on Friday, extended their unbeaten run to 10 games at Plymouth with a 4-3 victory which took them second, only two points off the top.

Argyle went ahead when Matt Joseph put into his own net, but the visitors levelled through the substitute Steve Watts before half-time and clinched victory in the last 18 minutes with goals from Martin Ling, Tony Richards and Carl Griffiths. Argyle's Sean McCarthy was sent off in the 82nd minute.

Barnford, the bookmakers' title favourites, gained their fifth successive home win, Lloyd Owusu and Martin Rowlands scoring either side

Fourth Division

of half-time in a 2-1 win against financially-troubled Chester. There was a rare glimpse of a smile from the manager Ron Nades after-wards as he said: "I'm pleased because we had four defenders out injured."

The top seven are covered by only three points. Cardiff City are in the shake-up after a 2-0 win at home to Southend, where Broughton's penalty gave Barry Fry's Peterborough a 2-1 win at home to Southend, but Rotherham, who were frustrated in a goalless draw at home to Exeter.

At the bottom there was a rare win bonus for the players of Hull City, Craig Dudley scoring the only goal at home to Carlisle in the 89th minute for his team's fourth win of the season. They are now only three points



Liverpool 2 Blackburn Rovers 0

## Rovers make difficult case for treatment

Ian Ross sees the Reds' recovery gather momentum

**J**ACK WALKER, Blackburn's Rovers' benefactor and chief decision-maker, would be well advised not to dwell too long on whom he intends to invite to fill his club's managerial vacancy.

Unfortunately for Walker and for those who hold dear the Lancashire club, Harry Houdini is no longer with us and thus cannot be considered for the post.

It was only 3½ years ago, ironically at yesterday's venue, that the team which Jack built were crowned champions of England.

But, much water has passed beneath many bridges since that day and this morning Blackburn are marooned at the foot of the Premiership — a club which has lost its manager, its way and the plot.

### Match stats

	Liverpool	Blackburn
Possession	51%	49%
Attempts on target	5	2
Attempts off target	6	6
Corners	5	7
Fouls	20	15
Offsides	6	3
Bookings	1	1

bued with sufficient confidence to assume control at Ewood Park may prove rather difficult. And, even with Uncle Jack's generosity, it is a most demanding task.

Prospective successors to the sacked Roy Hodgson should have spent yesterday afternoon wandering around Anfield's main stand, for it was there, wearing no boots but frowns, that those players who will shape Blackburn's immediate future were to be found.

Of the eight men ruled out because of injury or suspension, six would certainly have made it into the team which was sent out by the most polished caretaker manager in British football, Tony Parkes.

Not for the first time in recent seasons Parkes was asking boys and novices to undertake the work of men; this time it was beyond them. "I could be in charge for two or three weeks but I think the people who matter inside my club have got the message that something has to be done quickly this time," he said.

Parkes added: "Bearing in mind the team we put out, I thought we did tremendously well. Things will improve — we must be looking for better times ahead."

West Ham United 2 Tottenham Hotspur 1

## Harry's just wild about Ginola

Martin Thorpe

**A** WEEK which began with Harry Redknapp fearing for his authority at Upton Park ended with the West Ham manager happy to take second billing.

For a heady 24 hours the Hammers were next to top of the table for the first time since 1986 and, though they dropped to third yesterday, it is a credit to the club that they are vying with the Premiership Goliaths.

David did almost bring them down, but in the end Ginola's sumptuous skills could not deliver Spurs the victory their domination perhaps deserved. Despite being under the cosh for long periods, the durability that now runs through West Ham's once easy team helped them pocket their 13th point from the last 15 on offer.

The Hammers fans are so used to seeing their dreams fade and die that they have even enshrined it in a song. But now the team's future looks promising, so long as the board can resist temptations such as the increased £6 million offer for Frank Lampard contemplated by Spurs.

But even Redknapp was happy to accept that Saturday's star was Ginola. The West Ham manager has been sold a few dummies in his time — Raducioiu, Futre, Boogers — but even he was left drooling by the Frenchman's Premier Cru skills. "You are the best player, you are fantastic," swooned Redknapp as he laid his hands on Ginola's shoulders as he bumped into him after the match.

"He's a dream, he's got everything," expanded Redknapp later. "My boys have come off and said, 'What do you do with him? He goes left, he goes right, he's strong as an ox, he's quick as lightning, he's

Liverpool's confidence is so fragile that unless they are provided with the comfort of an early goal panic tends to spread through their ranks like dye through still waters.

As is now the norm, their initial hesitancy manifested itself in some extraordinarily nervous football. Despite the determined efforts of Jamie Redknapp, there was to be no link between a defence which still cannot be trusted and an attack which must be sick and tired of trying to grow fat off unappealing crumbs.

Blackburn, you suspect, knew all too well that they were starting a drubbing full in the face but, even so, it was only a matter of 10 minutes or so before they were enveloped by the warm feeling that the team before them in red shirts were similarly bedeviled by problems.

That the team which Gérard Houllier is attempting to knock into shape cannot defend, either individually or collectively, is common knowledge, but even so the sight of such an impoverished Blackburn team initially threatening to prosper was wholly unexpected.

When your back is pressed against the wall moving forwards does represent an attractive proposition, and this is what Parkes's boys attempted to do.

Had Blackburn scored during an opening 20 minutes when neither side held sway the afternoon may have held the hint of a measure of intrigue. But it was not to be.

In fact, once Liverpool had moved in front just before the half-hour the argument was all but at an end.

Blackburn's reserves were content to avoid a hammering. Liverpool were happy to log only their third league win in 10 weeks.

"This result does not mean that we are healed because it will be a long process," said Houllier. "Today was better but it wasn't perfect. We are in a period of convalescence but it isn't finished just yet."

Paul Ince's goal was always likely to provide a tepid game's one abiding memory for he can rarely have struck a sweeter shot — a ferocious right-footed drive which drifted away from the Blackburn goalkeeper John Flann before striking the inside of a post and going in.

Three minutes later Blackburn's stout resistance was over when Flann blocked a Michael Owen drive only to look on helplessly as the rebound fortuitously cannoned off the teenager's knee and over the line.

And that, rather sadly, was that. No more goals, no more entertainment. File under dull and predictable.

Nottingham Forest 2 Aston Villa 2

## Merson blow makes Gregory rethink

Russell Thomas

**I**T WILL seem like insult added to injury for Paul Merson but the forward's misfortune was followed by outrageous good luck for his Aston Villa team-mates in a match raising fresh doubts about John Gregory's current formula for success.

Merson is Gregory's highest signing at £6.75 million and Villa's manager predictably talked up the importance of the 30-year-old player who will see a specialist this week to combat a puzzling back injury he has suffered for around seven weeks. "Paul could be out for a week, it could be a month," said Gregory with the air of a man fearing the worst. "I'm very concerned."

Gregory now has to decide whether it is Merson's lack of fitness or his formation, which he has changed to accommodate the player as a third forward, that is at fault for the frailties now threatening his team's leadership. The misgivings about the team's balance in the Liverpool defeat arose again at half-time at the City Ground.

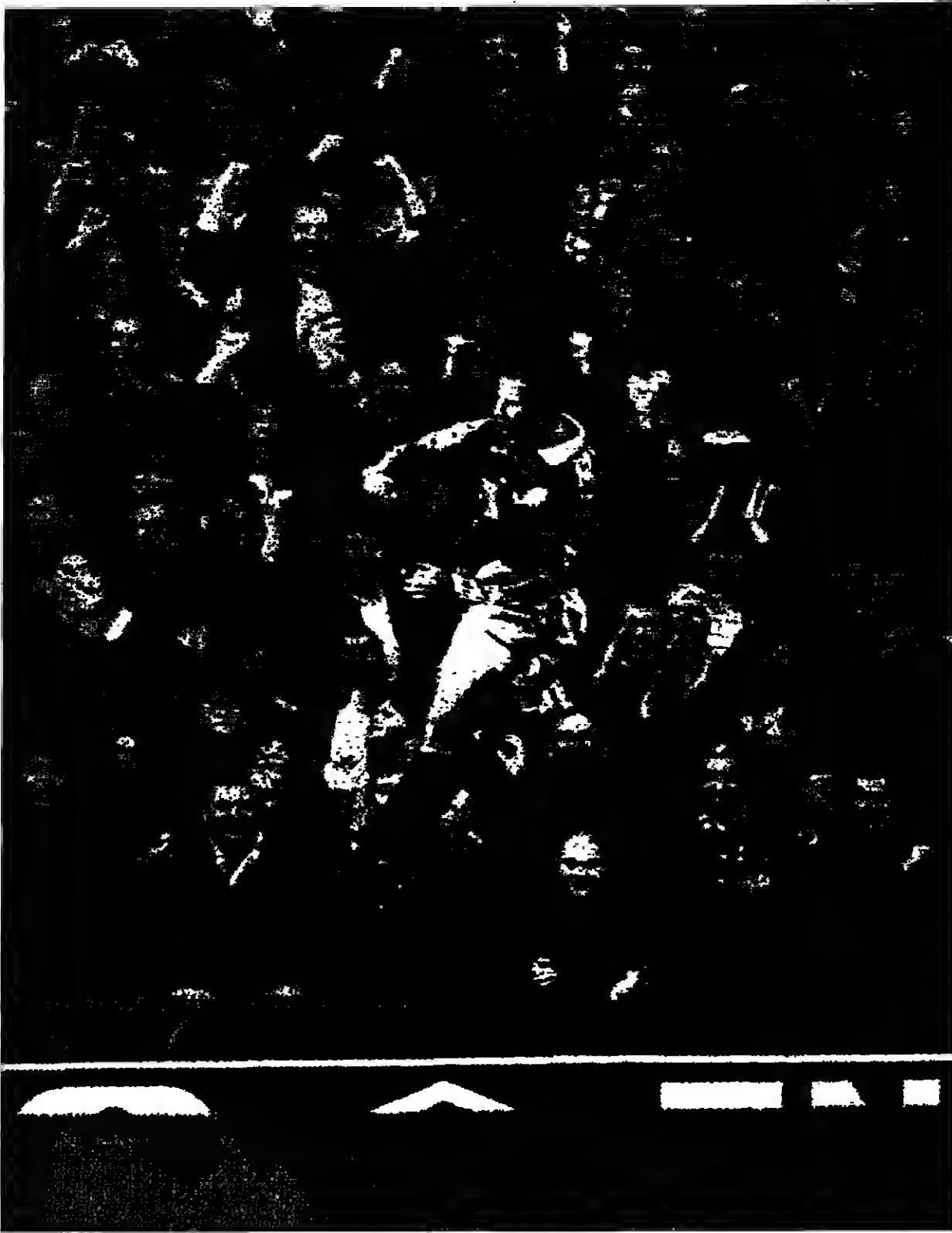
Perhaps Gregory believes that Villa now have the firepower in the long term to offset reduced defensive security. But here Villa ensured they would remain leaders for a 12th week only through two scruffy, arguably invalid, goals that mocked Forest's surprising control of the game. With Stan Collymore cast down with a stomach bug, and Dion Dublin for once looking mortal, missing glaringly in stoppage time, the unused and unsettled Julian Joachim was in the right place at the right time. Or twice in five minutes, to be precise.

Merson, after an inconspicuous 45 minutes, effectively decided half-time was the right time to stand down. "He felt he was letting the lads down playing like that," said Gregory, who brought on Alan Thompson. The substitute slipped into a more efficient Villa midfield.

Nevertheless, individual errors by Villa defenders abounded as Chris Bart-Williams scored with an angled shot and Donnie Freedman, supplied by Pierre van Hooijdonk's quick pass, drove high past Michael Oakes. Gareth Southgate looked less than imperious and Gareth Barry less than his publicity would suggest. Sixteen goals conceded in six Villa games tells the transformed story.

Villa can scarcely afford such generosity against Manchester United next Saturday and, possibly, against Arsenal a week later in two home games that will reveal much about Gregory's tactical ability and the character of his players. Forest's manager Dave Bassett, in typically forthright mood, says Villa are not flattered by first place. "Can they stay there? Course they can. They've got some bloody good players."

Villa's quality, and Gary Willard's questionable refereeing, left Bassett bemoaning the loss of one of the Premiership upsets of the season, leaving Forest without a league victory for three months. Bassett correctly queried Dublin pulling Jon Olav Hjelde out of the way before Joachim tapped in his first goal and, less obviously, the Villa forward's alleged high challenge on Dave Beasant without a league victory for three months. Bassett correctly queried Dublin pulling Jon Olav Hjelde out of the way before Joachim tapped in his first goal and, less obviously, the Villa forward's alleged high challenge on Dave Beasant without a league victory for three months.



High flying... Butt jumps for joy in front of an ecstatic crowd after scoring the winner

PHOTOGRAPH BY CHARLES KNIGHT

Manchester United 3 Leeds United 2

## No butts from Ferguson but Butt tips the balance

David Hopps

**A**LEX FERGUSON had unmistakably thrown down the challenge yesterday, warning that he would be "terminating in every detail the attitudes and standards" of a Manchester United side whose Premiership challenge has been undermined too often by the rival attractions of the Champions League.

Even such notably hard taskmasters can put up with de-light on occasions and Ferguson was delighted by this response. There is no more passionate challenge to United than that provided by their rivals from across the Pennines. They had to stretch every sinew, burst every lung before victory was achieved.

This was Leeds's Nou Camp. Manchester United might have gained plaudits for a thrilling midweek draw in Barcelona but Leeds sensed the opportunity to cause further embarrassment to a side whose Premiership lapses, according to Ferguson, had been "unacceptable". The manager having drawn the line, his players defended it to the last man they had to.

Only 12 minutes remained of an enthralling contest when United summoned the winning goal that swept them back into second place, Aston Villa's lead now only a point.

Appropriately it fell to Nicky Butt, precisely the sort of fringe senior player at whom Ferguson's words had been most directed, his first goal of the season coming as he swivelled just inside the area to beat Paul Robinson with a rasping drive. "He has had a mixed season but today he was our best player," Ferguson said. "It was a fantastic result for us, and the most entertaining game I've ever known against Leeds at Old Trafford."

Leeds, finally, were spent, but their first away defeat in the Premiership this season brought upon them considerable credit, as they were disturbed defensively by injuries to Martin Hiden, who may be absent for a month with knee ligament trouble, and to their goalkeeper Nigel Martyn, who succumbed to a back injury after an outstanding first half in which he pulled off as

many breathtaking saves — three — as Andy Cole spurned chances.

Butt had looked in disbelief at the best of these saves, with the game still goalless, Martyn leapt prodigiously to claw his header on to the bar, his back injury suffered as he fell on to his far post.

In Ferguson's search for "freshness" this was a United side with their wings clipped: no Beckham, no Blomqvist and Ryan Giggs only appearing as a second-half substitute. Leeds drew encouragement, tackling ferociously in central areas and breaking in numbers, their strikers Harry Keane and Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink back to their sharpest.

Leeds survived Ole Solskjaer's appeals for a penalty, when he fell under Gumar Halle's challenge, before Hasselbaink provided them with a half-hour lead. Hasselbaink, entirely unrecognisable from the craggy, flabby figure of a few weeks ago, drove determinedly in from the left and his powerful low shot creased into the net off the inside of the near post.

Martyn winced in pain at every drop kick, padded balls at

his feet into touch in near despair and saved excellently from Solskjaer and Cole in between swigging down a couple of painkillers hurried round by his manager, David O'Leary. His last duty, though, was to pick the ball from the net, Solskjaer receiving Dwight Yorke's pass to beat him with a low, angled drive.

For Martyn to survive the half was one thing, to emerge for the restart practically impossible. He gave way to his teenage understudy, Robinson, who through no fault of his own was beaten within 10 seconds of the restart, Roy Keane sidefooting into the roof of the net after Paul Scholes had sped outside Ian Harte.

That Leeds could summon another response in the face of such mounting casualties seemed unlikely, but within six minutes they were level. Kewell, full of vim throughout, capitalised upon an error by Wes Brown and his left-foot finish over Schmeichel was delightfully composed. Robinson's saves then kept Leeds alive until the moment that brought Butt's season alive.

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Chelsea 1 Sheffield Wednesday 1

## Booth steps on the blue suede shoes

David Lacey



**S**HOULD Chelsea become champions this season it will be like seeing the marathon won in blue suede shoes of Italian design. That is to say the fast will be even more remarkable for the uniqueness of its style and the softness of its tread.

There may be nothing new about teams winning championships with foreign players. Chelsea, however, would be the first club to win the title with a wholly foreign approach. After all, Graeme Le Saux is a Jersey-born wing-back and even when Dennis Wise returns from suspension their game would be based on Continental patterns. Wise may wear spikes rather than suedes but his touch, vision, movement and passing have always belonged to a wider field than Little England.

When the manager's programme notes are printed in an engaging form of prose which is not quite pidgin but is not far off either, the prospect of Chelsea representing English football in next season's Champions League becomes an intriguing prospect.

Gianluca Vialli felt sufficiently moved by his team's 3-0 and 4-2 victories against Wimbledon and Leicester City to declare: "Chelsea Football Club is not any more a club made by a bunch of spoilt foreigners in which the lack of fighting spirit is evident. We know we have to play nice football, we do when we can, and now we know that when we play against opponents who practice the old style of English football we can compete as well."

But are Chelsea the genuine championship article or is their present surge a camouflage for the traditional quirky inconsistencies that are bound to reappear? This, remember, is the club for whom Jimmy Greaves scored 124 goals in 157 league matches yet finished no higher than halfway in the old First Division during his four seasons at Stamford Bridge.

Saturday's 1-1 draw at home to Sheffield Wednesday left some familiar misgivings about Chelsea's true potential. A win would have taken them up to second place, but a draw would have kept them in the bottom half. Instead they were held by opposition containing six nationalities but hustling after a thoroughly English fashion.

No Italian on the pitch covered more ground than Wednesday's Benito Carbone while Emerson Thome, a Brazilian-born Portuguese, gave a convincing imitation of an English centre-back. At times Carbone tried to do everything too quickly and his passing suffered, but Danny Wilson's side supported Vialli's case for the fighting quality of foreign players and at times stated it more convincingly than Chelsea.

Yet well though Wednesday recovered in the second half after falling behind in the first, this remained the sort of flare Chelsea needs to win the Premiership. It is not enough to be good, it is to be good enough to win the Premiership. It is to be good enough to win the Premiership. It is to be good enough to win the Premiership.

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Southampton 0 Derby County 1

## Saint David struggling to make pipe dream a reality

Adam Ellis

**D**AVID JONES has a dream: Roberto Baggio finds his way around the drop in wages and decides to swap Juventus for Southampton, Serie A for a good old-fashioned relegation dog-fight.

The only thing that is black and white for the Saints manager right now is how fanciful such thinking is, however. "We've not got an abundance of money so we're competing in a certain market. I would love to buy an Italian centre-forward or bring in Duncan Ferguson but how does a club like us do that? Look at what Aston Villa have spent and it's probably more than this club has in 10 years."

With 12 players missing through injury or suspension, Saints had a patchwork look and their cover was not strong enough to avoid a morale-sapping defeat.

The failed attempts to buy Darren Barnard and Joey Beauchamp did not help their build-up and Jones did not issue a ringing endorsement of Carlton Palmer, whose move to Barnsley also fell through last week. "I can't afford to get rid of him, I've only got 17 fit players."

The collapse of Barnard's

are improving steadily, but Vialli's team were commanding the game by half-time and ought to have won it. Instead they lapsed into old sloppy habits: the passing became careless and the movement up front congealed. Wednesday deserved the point secured by Andy Booth's goal in the 68th minute and had he taken two earlier chances they might even have won.

Not since Alan Hansen and Mark Lawrenson were at Liverpool has a team with championship aspirations offered so much quality playing from the back. Late in Saturday's game Frank Leboeuf found Dan Petrescu with long crossfield pass of such perception and accuracy that you wanted to wrap it up and take it home.

Petrescu controlled the ball at a touch but then dragged his shot wide. That moment rather summed up Chelsea's performance which, as Vialli admitted, was not one of their best. "For 80 minutes we did well," he said, "but then we lost our shape a little." Then he consoled himself with the observation: "Last season we would have lost that game; at least we have kept the run going."

True enough, Chelsea's record is an unbeaten sequence of 19 matches in all competitions but this coming month

### Match stats

	Chel	ShW
Possession	55%	45%
Attempts on target	5	1
Attempts off target	13	4
Corners	12	4
Fouls	9	15
Offsides	1	2
Bookings	2	2

will surely test the currency of their title pretensions. On Wednesday week Aston Villa visit Stamford Bridge and Chelsea play Manchester United twice in the fortnight.

Are Christmas with a home game against Tottenham in between.

If Chelsea are still in the top three or four going into the new year then the chances of the championship coming to the Bridge for the first time since 1955 will be real indeed. But Wednesday's evidence they are just as likely to slip up against the struggling teams as drop points to their closest rivals.

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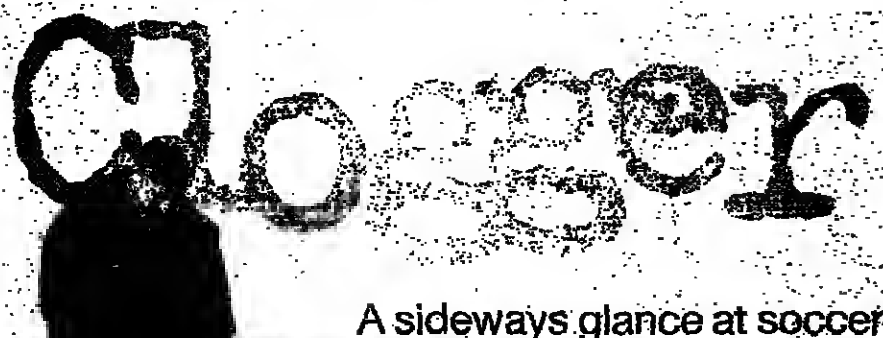
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A sideways glance at soccer



Their kit don't fit  
No. 56 Arsene Wenger

Bad luck for the Arsenal manager on Wednesday night. He obviously picked up the coat that had had its pockets filled with stones as a practical joke by his happy-go-lucky, fun-loving squad.



The Touted As England Boss XI  
They seemed to have the right qualities

Ray Hodgson	Did well on the continent you know
Ray Wilkins	Lots of caps, speaks very nicely
Brian Clough	"People's favourite" throughout the Seventies
Gerry Francis	Long hair, but knows about keeping it tight
Howard Kendall	Shortlisted between fifth and sixth Everton spell
Dave Sexton	Decent, quiet, wouldn't have picked Alan Hudson
Howard Wilkinson	Talks technical with the best of them
Steve Coppell	Very polite, but a bit too odd for England
Ron Atkinson	Come potential too scary for FA bigwigs
Trevor Francis	Appeared for his man management skills
Kevin Keegan	Rated himself out as Taylor successor. Oh well.

### A life in pictures

#### Alan Shearer's pout



Southampton Telchey Blackburn Agrievod England Resigned Newcastle Disgusted

### Ask the experts

**Was Sue Thearle's Match Of The Day explosive a first for football TV coverage?**  
It may or may not have been the first to be broadcast on air, but the incident reminded me of a report in the late, lamented Paul magazine about the 1974

World Cup. They recounted how the London Evening Standard sent the playwright Willis Hall to watch the panel of experts in action on and off camera. Next to Hall's article in the Standard was a caption which said: "Derelict Dougan — who's changed with majestic eloquence." According to

the Paul reporter Steve Tongue (now a BBC radio reporter), it turned out that Dougan kept on saying "Oh shill!" **Eric Rice, Aldershot**  
Each week we will print answers to a selected question. This week: What is the most potentially absurd or controversial refereeing decision ever made? **Chris Collins, Edinburgh**  
Send answers and further questions to the address below.

### Premiership: Newcastle United 3 Wimbledon 1

# Ferguson homes in to send the Toon into new flights of fancy

**Michael Walker** sees a quick double dividend from Gullit's surprise signing

**G**IVEN the splendour of his name, it always seemed likely that Alf Rothwell would be the man to speak to when a dose of common sense was needed amid frenzied optimism breaking out on Tyneside. So it proved last week that when everybody else was cooing about the £8 million capture of the bird man of Berlin, Alf was sought out by Newcastle's evening paper and administered caution and wisdom in equal measure.

**Match stats**

Possession	57%	43%
Attempts on target	11	5
Attempts off target	10	4
Corners	9	4
Fouls	15	10
Offsides	5	8
Bookings	1	0

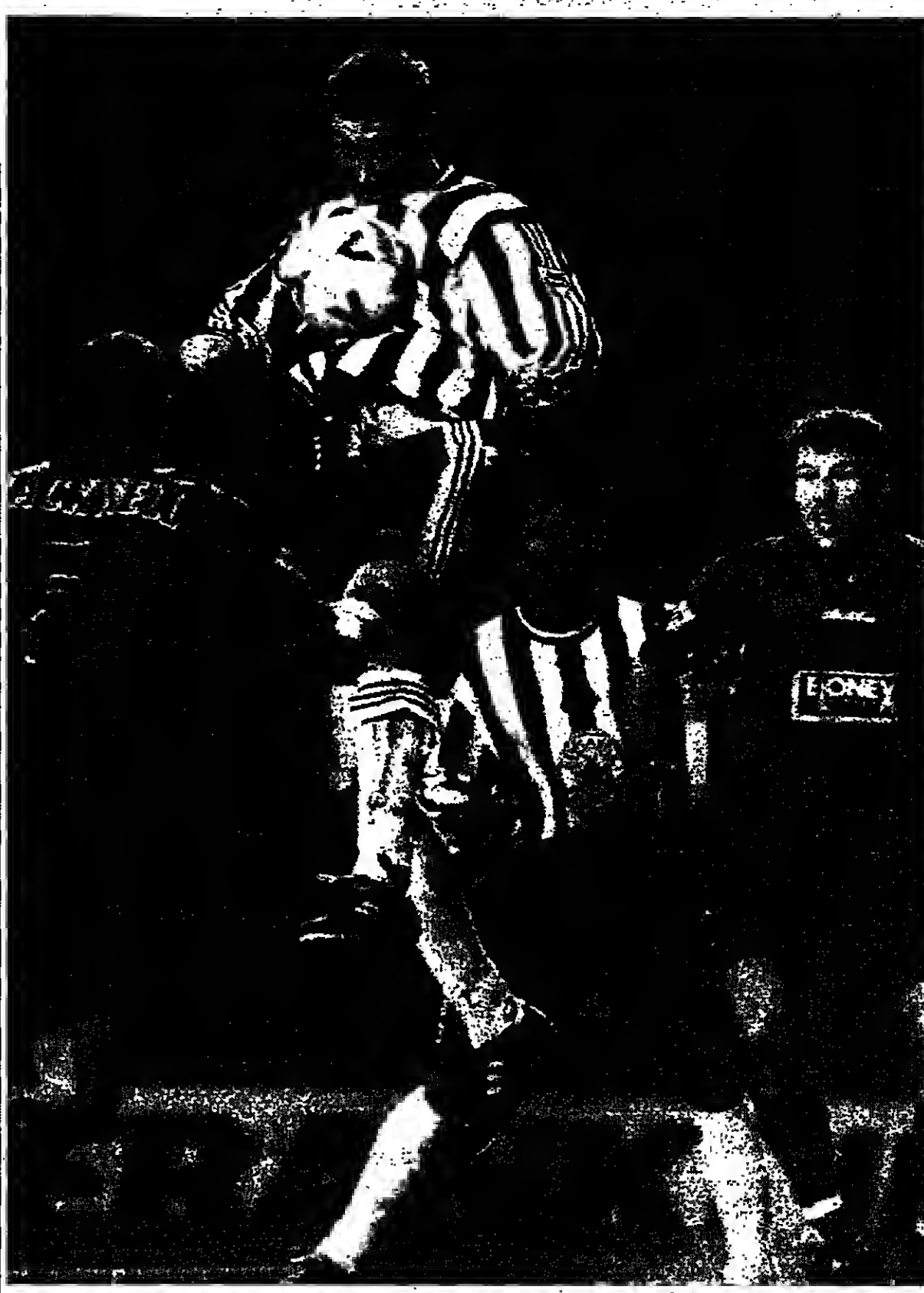
and depended on "how much time Rued Gullit wants to give Duncan for his hobby". Alf sounded worried. Ferguson's excitement was immediate — it took the Toon Army all of nine minutes to chant his name — but Alf's concern for the striker's birds was justified. If Ferguson continues in such manic fashion, Gullit will not let him out of his sight, lifts not lofts being the manager's priority.

"Everybody at the club has been given a lift by Duncan," Gullit said, "the players and the fans. Everybody is excited. He is a charismatic figure and he has brought a positive vibe to the club." Yes, but had the big Scot's signing given Gullit himself a lift in an otherwise difficult time? "No, I came by car."

Apparently that passes for humour in Holland but, after such an arid time since his arrival, maybe Gullit deserved the last laugh for once. Eight days ago, in a Frank's first, the players had been told that Gullit was only four of Kenny Dalglish's huge squad around whom he could build a potent future. From the back they were Shay Given, David Eddy, Robert Lee and Stuart Pearce. At 4.00pm on Saturday, moments after Wimbledon's Neil Sullivan dived over Ferguson's soft header to make the score 3-1, none of the Newcastle Four was on the pitch.

The victory was ensured by an alternative quartet: Steve Harper, having replaced the injured Given at half-time, was assured in goal and just in front Steve Howey was what a centre-half should be: commanding in central midfield, despite contributing the pass from which Marcus Gayle blasted Wimbledon ahead. Gary Speed had his best game for Newcastle.

Wimbledon were undisturbed. Gayle's emphatic finish brought a merited lead, but after 37 minutes Keith Gillespie at last got around Deo Fergusson's displeasure with him was apparent early. In a tortuous opening from Newcastle which brought to eight hours their drought of a single Premiership goal, Ferguson won header after header without reward.



King of the air... the £8 million Duncan Ferguson climbs above an admiring pack at St James' Park. PHOTOGRAPH BY LEE SMITH

by competing, a concept his partner Andreas Andersson is unfamiliar with. Andersson, who has been in the club since last summer, is a troublemaker. Ferguson's displeasure with him was apparent early. In a tortuous opening from Newcastle which brought to eight hours their drought of a single Premiership goal, Ferguson won header after header without reward.

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### State of the nation

#### United States

Population 250 million. Undisputed champions Washington DC United (1997), who somehow escaped the fate of being known as the Washington Werewolves or some other alliterative atrocity. National player stereotype: Probably a goalkeeper, definitely keen, fresh-faced and college-educated. Pioneer One of the few exceptions to the rule was Roy Wegerle, who signed for Chelsea from Tampa Bay in 1996 and proceeded to rack up almost as many clubs as countries he was qualified for. Important import John Harkes, was the first to emerge from the domestic system; the first to score at Wembley; and the inspiration for a headline that sums up transatlantic sporting incoherence: "Harkes signs for Sheffield Wednesday". Stranger in a strange land: Cobi Jones was Coventry's post-1994 World Cup gamble, but possibly he was confused by the coaching. "We don't mind him going on those 70-yard runs of his but he needs to do it closer to the danger area," his manager Phil Neal said. Keeping tabs The US have at times had as many as four goalkeepers in England cycling for a place in the national team: Brad Friedel, Kasey Keller,

### A-Z of British football

#### P

... is for Plucky, a handy euphemism for "losers", which neatly covers FA Cup underdogs and English clubs in Europe. Classic usage: "PLUCKY Portsmouth went out to lucky Liverpool on penalties and something precious in FA Cup football disappeared." — David Lacey  
Ian Pearson and Jürgen Sommer Keller once explained their preference for red: "In most American sports you use your hands." Some thought to tell Friedel: "I eat don't I tell you?"  
Underdogged Portsmouth, the closest thing to a plucky club in the Premier League, was when it was a non-league team. "I found it surprising," he said. "Contribution to world football is English players who have been abroad for 10 years and then come back and play for us." — Brian Marshall  
1992 World Cup star who would join Leeds. Searchlight in a Who Do They Think They're Singing French XI Brian Marshall

### Refwatch

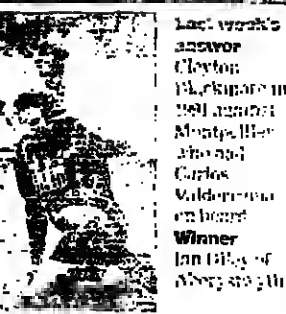
#### Steven Lodge

Home town: Barnsley. Home town's other claims to fame: Football team beats crashing buses from Dickie Bird to Michael Parkinson as fans. Occupation: Local government officer. Hobbies: Squash, keep-fit, gardening, cricket. Trademark gesture: Looking anxiously towards the stewards as 15,000 incensed Southampton and Derby fans shouted, "You don't know what you're doing!"  
Saturday's highlight: Considering his options for around 30 seconds after a foul, a scuffle and a word with his assistant. A throw-in was his bizarre decision. Brandishes cards in the manner of... a static version of Alan Shearer's one hand in the goal celebration.  
The gaffer tapes: "There are no easy games and we aren't going to win every one but it was nice to win with a clean sheet." George Burley of Ipswich takes a commanding lead in the "Sick as a Parrot" league. But, remember George, it's a marathon not a sprint.  
"Some of the dummies he threw over sent me the wrong way — and I was sitting in the dug-out."  
Henry Rookings enjoys David Gullit's performance. And lest we forget with Peter Storie, proof he knows a thing or two about throwing dummies.

### Cup of winners



Here is a British club in action in the ECWC in a famous tie of the 1990s. But who was the famous player from the team in white who missed the match? Post, fax or e-mail your answer to the address below to win your choice of this month's new titles from the Football Book Club (0171-561 1608 for a catalogue). Please include a phone number.



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### Coventry City 1 Leicester City 1

# Coventry peep into the future

#### Mark Tollerance

**T**HESE are transitional times at Highfield Road as the club strive to adjust to life after Dion, so much so that one of the Coventry fans known as In Dubious has had a new name for himself after the former club captain's move to Aston Villa.

At least the next issue of Peeping Tom, the fanzine formerly known as In Dubious, will be able to report that the current Coventry captain Gary McAllister turned in a performance against Leicester which must have had the watching Scotland manager Craig Brown wondering what might have been if the midfielder had been fit for national service in France last summer.

McAllister, for whom this was only the eighth first-team game back after 10 months on the sidelines with a cruciate injury, was at the centre of everything Coventry did. Admittedly his 33-year-old legs tired towards the end but his foraging runs, incisive passes and superb vision had given his team an edge which would have seen them easy winners if their finishing had been up to standard.

"I think we are still capable of creating chances," McAllister said later. "Any team would be a player of Dion's presence, but we have to vary it a bit and try to get the ball to Darren Huckerby's feet more."

It was Huckerby's head, though, which gave them the lead when he latched on to a flick from Trond Sollied, a midfielder turned forward for the day in place of the injured Noel Whelan, and knocked the ball past Kasey Keller from four yards.

McAllister also carved out a couple of decent chances for himself, the first a 25-yard shot which stung the palms of Keller, and even better a header from two yards which slipped wide of the post after the goalkeeper had beaten out Huckerby's shot.

"He obviously got a special touch, didn't he? Not a problem and he looks match-fit to me," said his fellow Scotland international Matt Elliott, the Leicester captain. "It's a couple of months to our next game but I am sure he will be under strong consideration."

Leicester, who had been reduced to 10 men just after the interval when Frank Sinclair was somewhat harshly sent off, plugged away and with 70 seconds remaining O'Neill, Leicester's manager, said he got a touch of the ball before the boy went over and to be fair Mike (Riley) said that he's going to have a look at it again.

### Batty's £4.5m return to Leeds

# primed for quick sealing

#### DAVID BATTY's adviser

Yesterday said he has cancelled all business appointments for 48 hours in an effort to rush through the England midfielder's £4.5 million move from Newcastle to Leeds.

Batty handed in an official transfer request on Friday because he is desperate to return to Elland Road and the club he served for more than six seasons before transfers to Blackburn and then Tyneside.

A deal looks almost certain to go through this week in time for Batty, 30 on Wednesday, to make his debut at home to West Ham on Saturday.

Hayden Evans, speaking after Leeds's 3-2 defeat at Manchester United, said: "I'm expecting Leeds and Newcastle to contact one another tomorrow. We'll just sit tight and wait for Newcastle to say, 'Go and talk to Leeds'. I cannot see any stumbling block."

### Charlton Athletic 1 Everton 2

# Cadamarteri out of the shadow

#### Trevor Haylett

**T**HE former chairman of a small club, about as popular then as Peter Johnson is now, used to justify his regular visits to the transfer market to his wife by the amount of time he spent on the "magical 10 per cent".

Amid the shedding of tears on Merseyside and the understandable managerial indignation that followed Johnson's decision to recoup £8 million of his investment in Everton through the sale of Duncan Ferguson, it was perhaps easy to overlook that out of the big man's shadow could emerge two strikers, Danny Cadamarteri and Ibrahim Bakayoko, both eager to claim their percentage.

The two goals that gave the Merseysiders a third Premiership away victory will have done wonders for Cadamarteri's confidence and much to sway those Goodison doubters who wondered if the promise he showed a year ago could be maintained. He began by setting alight Everton's right flank and it was shortly after he switched wings that he put them on their way.

For his first 10-year-old nipped ahead of Sasa Lilic, who recklessly had raced yards out of his goal. His second, struck within 60 seconds of Charlton's equaliser, again required a steady nerve after Lilic failed once more in dealing with a high ball.

Johnson has said that none of the Ferguson fund will be available to Walter Smith, a situation which further alienates the manager while exhausting what little sympathy remained for the chairman on Merseyside.

The Everton fans continued to voice their disenchantment with affairs of the field by demanding, and not so politely, that Johnson should get out, and there does seem little point in his staying on if there are buyers waiting in the wings.

At least with Cadamarteri and Bakayoko eager to impress, and with Nick Barnby soon to become available after a hernia operation, Everton are in a better position than Charlton would be if, say, they had to sell Clive Meadon for financial reasons. A lack of goalkeeping power has contributed to a run of five games without a win, though Alan Curbishley preferred afterwards to highlight defensive errors.

Charlton owed their equaliser to a long-range free-kick which Kinsella struck hard and accurately but which should have been kept out. Even though they employed a three-prong attack after half-time they posed only a sporadic threat to a determined Everton rearguard which has been the biggest achievement of Smith's reign so far.

JP's in 1520



In the sports section



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England take  
the Wallabies  
to the brink  
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**High finance**  
Corretja pockets  
the big cheque  
in Hanover  
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# The Guardian Sport

Monday November 30 1998 www.football.guardian.co.uk

Stewart's foot-shooters suffer a roller-coaster weekend



Lie back and don't think of England... Darren Gough's frustration is all too plain after dropping Australia's Ricky Ponting during the tourists' headlong descent towards defeat in Perth

LAURENCE GRIFFITHS Mike Selvey, page 13

## A real cracker at the Waca

**A**FTER an afternoon of wackiness at the Waca, complete with Dick Dastardly (aka Damien Fleming), England began the third day of the second Test in Perth today up a creek and all but paddle-free. Having taken Australia's last six first-innings wickets in as many overs to trail by 128, the first two-day finish in any Test since 1946 loomed as Fleming reduced them to 67 for five. Graeme Hick and Mark Ramprakash averted that at least, taking 28 off a Jason Gillespie over, one shy of the Test record, to cut this deficit to two by stumps.

## Seething Smith on point of leaving Everton

Ian Ross

**W**ALTER SMITH is on the verge of resigning after another row with Everton's chairman Peter Johnson. The manager is expected to announce this morning that he is to leave the club only five months after being installed as the successor to Howard Kendall.

Unless Johnson makes a public statement accepting full responsibility for the controversial sale of the Scotland striker Duncan Ferguson to Newcastle last Monday, Smith will almost certainly tender his resignation and walk out.

Although Ferguson's £8 million transfer was negotiated and ratified without Smith's knowledge or consent, Johnson has so far steadfastly refused to confirm as much.

Since the chairman agreed to sell Ferguson in an attempt to reduce Everton's mounting overdraft he has held at least two, possibly three, meetings with Smith in the hope of placating the former Rangers manager.

During the course of the last one, held in London on Friday evening, Johnson agreed to issue a statement which would in essence have confirmed that Smith was not involved in the sale of Ferguson — a cult hero at Goodison. However, much to Smith's disgust, Johnson has so far failed to issue any form of explanation.

The relationship between the two men has now deteriorated to such an extent that unless Johnson breaks his silence this morning Smith, and presumably his assistant Archie Knox, are likely to inform the Everton board that they believe their positions to be untenable.

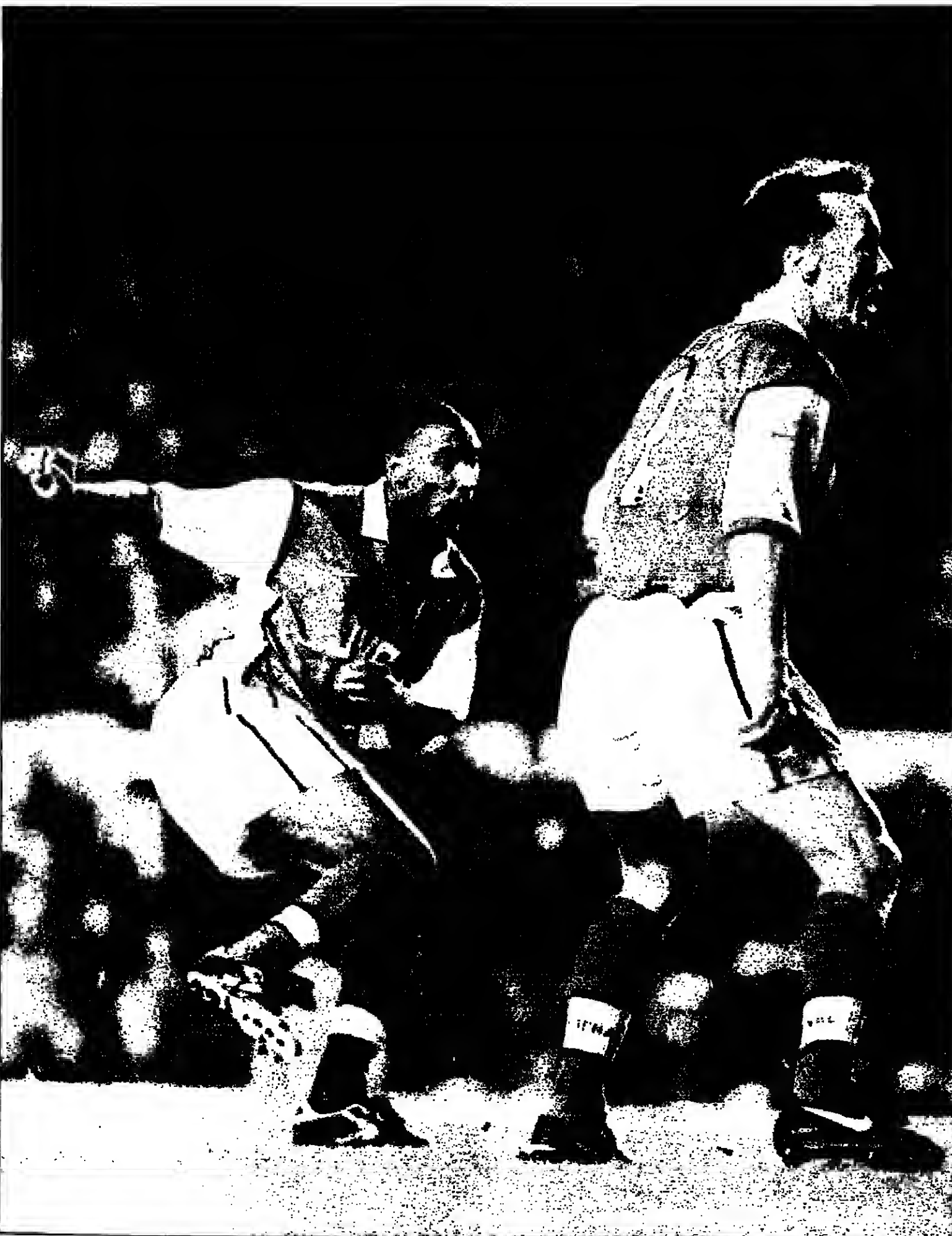
Johnson's decision to offload Ferguson has sparked such anger on Merseyside that the multimillionaire businessman is known to be seriously considering his future within football.

He is now believed ready to stand down as Everton chairman — possibly to be replaced by the highly respected Sir Philip Carter — and is known to be actively seeking a buyer for a 68 per cent shareholding which is conservatively valued at £55 million.

If Smith does stand down, Everton will almost certainly install the club's veteran captain Dave Watson as caretaker manager once again.

Premiership: Arsenal 1 Middlesbrough 1

## Deane slip fuels Highbury mirth



End of the famine... Lee Dixon looks on as Nicolas Anelka scores Arsenal's first league goal for 533 minutes

PHOTOGRAPH: TOM JENKINS

## David Lacey on Wenger's mighty sigh of relief as Anelka's late goal comes gift-wrapped

**T**HESE days Middlesbrough are nobody's fools whereas Arsenal, in their present impoverished state, would appear to be anybody's meat. Yesterday's draw at Highbury, therefore, brought Bryan Robson's team less satisfaction than might normally be the case for a promoted side holding last season's Double winners on their own ground.

In fact it was more a case of Arsenal holding Middlesbrough. The champions' first goal in five matches did not arrive until the penultimate minute, by which time the gauche ineptitude of their finishing had driven their supporters first to anger and then to uncontrolled mirth.

Paradoxically an error by Brian Deane, who had given Middlesbrough the lead in the fifth minute, led to Arsenal's salvation. Until then Boro's three central defenders — Colin Cooper, Steve Vickers and Gary Pallister — had dealt comfortably with everything in the air, but when Remi Garde lobbed the ball towards the penalty area Deane, back to support them, missed it completely.

Nicolas Anelka brought the scores level off the underside of the crossbar and Boro spent the two minutes of stoppage time defending untidily as Arsenal sought one of the season's less likely victories. Highbury's obvious relief at the draw, both on and off the field, was a measure of how far Arsène Wenger's side have fallen in the past month.

A lengthening list of injuries has been the main problem, doing nothing to restore form and confidence which were already on the wane. Yesterday Arsenal were missing what amounted to the core of last season's successful team: Tony Adams from defence, Patrick Vieira and Emmanuel Petit from midfield and Dennis Bergkamp from attack. Stephen Hughes, one of the better alternatives, was also unfit and Nigel Winterburn had to go off midway through the first half with a leg injury.

Casualties, however, are not the whole story. Wenger's squad always lacked the strength in depth to mount a decent challenge in the Champions League while keeping up appearances in the Premiership. Now, with their dwindling hopes in Europe finally ended by Lens in midweek, they face a winter of domestic rehabilitation.

Yesterday, for the most part, they did not look capable of winning a three-legged race even though much of their football around the opposing penalty area was played in the manner of men tied together at the feet. In-

tially neat approach work was let down by misplaced final passes and poor centres, but as the crowd grew impatient so some of Arsenal's less experienced players became nervous and apprehensive. By the closing stages Fredrik Ljungberg, so fundamental to Sweden's victory over England in the European Championship qualifiers, could hardly do anything right and the introduction of Luis Boa Morte and Fabian Caballero simply gave the supporters something else to laugh about. Until he laid on Anelka's goal, Garde appeared set on creating some sort of record for conversions: wrong code, wrong ball.

Middlesbrough went away wondering how, in such promising circumstances, they could have failed to win at Highbury for the first time since 1939. One of the reasons was that in defending so deep for the last half-hour they invited the sort of equaliser that duly arrived. Robson felt his team could have done more to catch Arsenal on the break; even Steve Bould was pushing forward into the Middlesbrough half. "We could have counter-attacked more," he conceded, "and kept possession better when we had won the ball off their forwards."

**B**ORO'S early goal was clinically conceived and executed. Paul Gascoigne, who now faces another suspension after a further booking — for a foul on Garde — began a move which saw Andy Townsend send in the overlapping Dean Gordon for a low cross. Deane nipped in front of Bould and Martin Keown to turn the ball past David Seaman.

Just past the quarter-hour Hamilton Ricard's crossfield ball found Deane striding into the penalty area from the left with only Seaman barring the way. There was a big space to the right of the goalkeeper but Deane shot straight at him. Later Mikkel Beck, having replaced Ricard, headed an equally simple chance wide.

Apart from a close-range shot from Marc Overmars, which Mark Schwarzer turned round the near post, their scoring attempts tended to be from too great a distance to worry the Boro goalkeeper. Until, that is, Anelka eased Arsenal's discomfort with his seventh goal of the season.

Wenger praised his team's energy and character but with Petit unlikely to return before Christmas, growing doubts about Adams coming back at all and Bergkamp even more of a mystery wrapped within an enigma, these are uncertain times at Highbury.

Television and radio

The weather in Europe

Monday total

plus Media







## A black and white photograph showing a large, curved sign with the letters 'AARBETT' in a bold, sans-serif font. The sign is positioned diagonally across the frame. The background consists of a bright, overexposed sky and the dark, silhouetted branches of trees at the bottom.

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[illegible]

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14/Appointments

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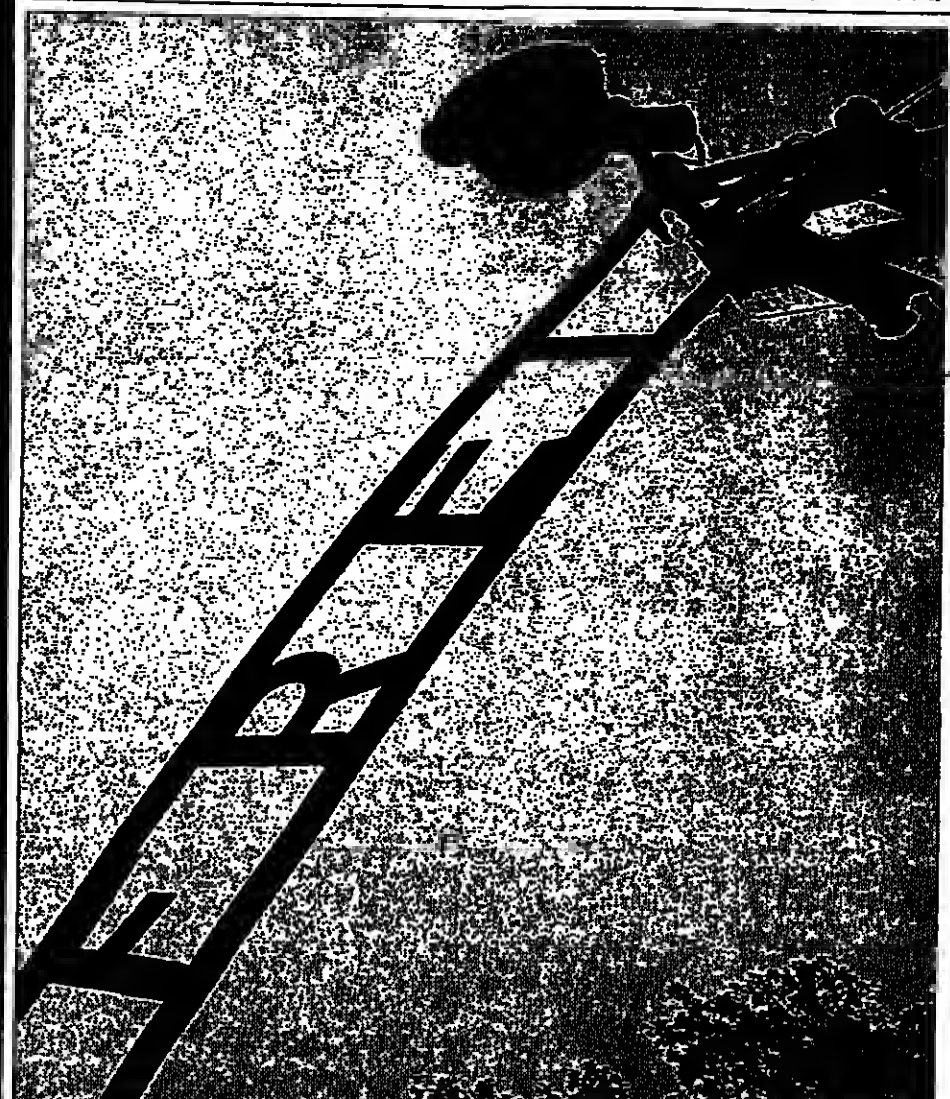
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us to carry as we climbed down into the cold of the only gas chamber not destroyed by the SS as Russian troops approached. Standing under the gas in the ceiling where the Czech Jewish bodies, the tears flowed. A faint smell of burning, from the preserved crematorium next door, intensified the effect.

After Auschwitz, our coach made the short journey to Birkenau, a site as different from the prettified layout of the other camp as it is possible to be. The entrance, along the railway tracks, was used in the opening scene from Spielberg's film *Schindler's List*. But what's on the other side is more frightening.

As far as the eye can see are the rough wooden barracks and chimneys of the Nazi death factory, which catches the breath because of its vastness. Inside the barracks, the roughly hewn wooden bunks, which held five or six souls, remain intact. In the centre of the room, crude, unfinished concrete latrines, with drains running through the barracks, each the size of a shoebox, were used by the prisoners who were killed, burned, and buried alive for the sustenance of the Nazis.

The name of the camp, the names of the people in our families who had perished: my grandparents Sandor and Fanny; my uncles David and Jeremie, who fell in work camps in the forest after they were taken from their families at the outbreak of war. The prayer, recited with quiet dignity among the assembled company - men and women together - somehow sanctified the ground and reclaimed for it a Jewish heritage. Sheltering against the wind, I found a crevice in the rocks and quickly lit a single memorial light. The whole place glowed. I realised, as the whole place glowed, that this was a place of remembrance - a moment of remembrance - a moment of remembrance - a moment of remembrance.

Then came the tragic roll-call... my uncle Daniel (above), who fell in a work camp after being taken from his family

Many times I have visited this hellhole, he declared. "But never on a more appropriate day than this. Not just because of the stormy weather, but because 54 years ago today, crematorium number four was bombed by Jewish prisoners, who had smuggled in explosives from outside." This, Marcus pointed out, was the most important rebellion at Birkenau, a source of hope for the other inmates, which resulted in the saving of Jews who could not be burnt in time. Looking down at the other camp as it is possible to be. The entrance, along the railway tracks, was used in the opening scene from Spielberg's film *Schindler's List*. But what's on the other side is more frightening.

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**1000 years**

To mark the end of the second millennium, the Guardian's website is conducting a whistle-stop tour of 1,000 years of world history. Each Monday we publish the highlights here.

**Day 98: 1194-1198**

After more than a year in the comfortable custody of Holy Roman Emperor Henry VI, King Richard was freed in early 1194. Back in England, he was greeted as a hero, which is curious: for the second time in four years he had led an army to the aid of the king.

**Day 99: 1198-97**

Not for the last time, aggrieved Londoners protested against an unfair tax. Their ring leader, William FitzOsbert, was hanged. To St Mary le Bow church (above). He sought sanctuary, but officials dragged him out, strapping him and hauled him through the streets to Tyburn, where he was hanged.

**Day 100: 1198-96**

Following the death of Henry VI in 1197, there was no obvious successor. Rivalry formed around Otto of Saxony and Philip of Swabia - the Guelphs and the Hohenstaufens - and in 1198 both were crowned by their followers. Civil war was inevitable.

**Day 101: 1200-1201**

No reliable statistics exist on the population of England at the end of the 12th century, but it is estimated to have been between three and three and a half million. Trade was steadily increasing - especially in wool. England produced 20,000 sacks of wool from about six million sheep, accounting for more than half the national economy.

**Day 102: 1202-1203**

In central Asia, a new power was emerging. The Mongols, a relatively tiny nomadic tribe, crushed another nomadic people, the Tartars, with the help of their inspired general: his name was Genghis Khan.

**Day 103: 1204-1205**

In April 1204 Eleanor of Aquitaine died, aged 62. Henry II had treated her appallingly, but after his death in 1189 she had helped to hold together the kingdom while Richard, her favourite son, was away on the Crusades.

**Day 104: 1206-1207**

In 1206 the prince of Gwynedd, Llywelyn ap Iorwerth, was granted the title of King of Wales. But as he was, after all, only Welsh royalty, the daughter he got was Joan, who was illegitimate.

**Day 105: 1208-1209**

In 1208 the prince of Gwynedd, Llywelyn ap Iorwerth, was granted the title of King of Wales. But as he was, after all, only Welsh royalty, the daughter he got was Joan, who was illegitimate.

**Day 106: 1210-1211**

In 1210 the prince of Gwynedd, Llywelyn ap Iorwerth, was granted the title of King of Wales. But as he was, after all, only Welsh royalty, the daughter he got was Joan, who was illegitimate.



She's the expert who did it in front of the cameras for the BBC. Now the Beeb won't screen the programme. What a waste of a great orgasm

**By  
Sabine  
Durrant**

A programme about censoring itself? One of the most, if not the most, interesting of the programmes collected every day, we've now scrutinised not just by the producers, but the editors of documentaries, the head of editorial policy, the controller of BBC2, sometimes slipped through, but all tortises made very very limp. Now, if you tug up and enquire about it, hands are put hurriedly over the receiver and you're eventually told no transmission date as yet.

Two people are particularly annoyed about this, one is Michael Durrin the film's director who, minutes after being told not to talk to the press, was using words like 'ballcock' laws, the porn laws, the obscenity laws, broadcasting laws, to ancient counsel laws referring to the lower sort of people and to the grey age of consent. But she also wants to change attitudes. 'Basically anything between consenting adults should be legal,' she said, minus neatly folded over crossed legs. 'One of the basic ways of controlling people is to control their sexuality. And while these laws are in existence, the police have them on vulnerable people and people are afraid. Did you know that it's illegal to have carnal conversations, to talk about sex, on the phone, or by letter? And the fact that this pro-

and bad religious prejudices, and that one "has been concerned so much like the John Calverly Movement." The other is Hippo Owens, who went to the rubble of hearing an organ as specially.

Owens, who also acted as an advisor to the program, is a leader of the Sexual Freedom Coalition. She is the wife of the late, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. She is a member of the Christian League of the sex world. She is a member of the Christian League of the sex world. She is a member of the Christian League of the sex world.

Many Whitehouses, about 180 degrees

For the interview, Owens, who is 54, had prepared notes, a list of serious points: how the Home Office had just agreed to "consult them", useful comparisons with Denmark. Which was fine, but oddly disconcerting in

I thought it would even up the zip-up rubber mini-dress with her red lace bra prominently displayed and she'd done her henna'd hair in schoolgirl pigtails (the word *Lolita* is written above the doorbell on her gold spray-painted front door). The House of Harlot dress was borrowed.

Guarantee "she said, tapping purple and turquoise nail on her nose. "Don't know if you know, but what's happening in the fashion scene is that women get dressed up like this and they look really sexy and feel really sexy, but they have a sort of feminist don't thing about them so they're less likely to be peckered. A lot of feminist stuff even got me called because it looks like a bit of a don, but rubbish. Has done really quite a lot to good. She wriggled and tried to yank the dress down a bit. "After a while it gets sort of cold and shiny inside."

Wo met in her flat, which is like something of a distraction. She lives in Mayfair between a school and the

[illegible]

quite an eye-opener. Apparently, it's 20 watt bulbs, it's a subterranean world, patchwork of fluffy rugs and furry blankets, mattresses filled with beanbag chairs, and a lot of other things, like bedrooms, nude posters and porn magazines, and a lot of other things. The repressed might think it's all needs a flyby Hoover (that's him, camp on the carpet), but it's Owens is the example to emulate. "I've got a difference between you and I, and I like the difference between ages, age," says "I've blown it ages ago," and "I've blown it with everybody. My mother came home and I wouldn't hold things—I thought I once offered to show her my pussy the next time and then I never finished there was this other lady premenstruated there was this other lady."

cle about blow jobs and I thought, 'I really want her to see that. But in that sense, I'm completely free. You probably wouldn't put out raunchy things that you might think were quite nice because somebody might comment.' She tutted sympathetically.

Described by Michael Durkin simply as a "good middle-class girl who talks dirty at the drop of a hat," Tupp

Her brother is now a vicar "with nice vicar's wife". Another works Which? magazine and lives with his family in Milton Keynes. Both his parents died recently. Did she get with them? "No," she said. "Er, yes."

Owens did a zoology degree at Exeter University and for a while worked as a freshwater ecologist, but she was always "a naughty girl." So she had a boyfriend whose father was a printer of dirty books and when she saw their "really tacky stuff" a thought, "what with her experience helping her father, she could help."

tographs of myself on a riverbank and said look, this is better than it is. But they said that's illegal, because had this doll attack up my pussy, thought I'd do a book myself and Ann Summers shops were at it—up and they were looking for a lawsuit, so I did a whole series of photographs. We did spring, summer, autumn, and winter. Then I had an idea for the Sex Machine's Play & that ran for 23 years, until I put lots of stuff about condoms and sex and the joke died."

Owens speaks in a very soft voice,

often it tumbles away at the end of patience to be coaxed back to life by sudden earthly stimuli. But she'll

you anything? The effects of my metamorphosis weighed so heavily because of the fibroids and its genre rather than, I was really hoping to bring more humor to it, since to my mind, that's what made it as juicy as it was in the old days. The best sex scenes? Virginia had good, I prefer mushrooms. Or cat.

And what really did happen at parties? That's really hard to convey! Let's say I was able to convert my swindlers to use condoms. They're actually very homophobic. The guys play with each other, but the men don't. Even the secret of good sex? Once you get couples to masturbating together, it's the big breakthrough. Have you ever...? No, I beg your pardon? she asked. "No, I beg your pardon." Just couldn't. I've got a few friends who are whores. I've got

admit them, but haven't got it."

When she is not campaigning, Owens does fish and belly-dancing. She's going to belly-dance this Saturday night at the Underground. "We're going to Underground because this Saturday night is a party," she drives a "boring old Audi," she likes cooking. She'll cook pheasant for a really romantic meal. He's big love is walking. She and her boyfriend, who has his own farm, and is 18 years young. "Which is a bit difficult," seems worth holidaying in the Cairngorms. "We croaked Cairngorm and then spent the night in this beautiful, enchanted valley. It was heaven."

the trip, Owens wore loose-fitting, warm clothes. They took his dog, "My boyfriend takes time off my birthday or Valentine's Day have a day of sex, which is brilliant. She only feel things need to change the world outside, but she is clean very happy with her own sex life. would be nice to have a garden though," she said.



So is the overwhelming female domination of the showmen — without any overt tokenism — something to celebrate? Hardly. When AA Gill, the Sunday Times columnist and television critic, argued at the Glastonbury Festival that TV was already over-feminised, he was arguing from a standpoint that it was another powerful empowering women move. Notably, it was one of the clearest indications that women are mainstreamed and impatient, that their only power base is still consistently domestic. They do the shopping and do the programmes for them. They stay home near the TV set to look after the children and do the ironing, so the programmes are for them. They tell their husbands what sex they quite fancy so the programmes are for them.

The men are busy elsewhere, which is why it's the hardest job in television to make a programme that attracts and keeps an almost exclusively male audience.

It's not a conspiracy, Alameda's re-active to social attitude rather than pro-active in altering it. The broad-sheet newspapers. All the dumbed-down low-brow columns are from women talking about school-runs and how hard it is to get a good parking space, leaving the International Political analysis to whom. This presumably is not because they are all run by misogynist bastards. They do research.

It must simply be what their need is want. Creating a token woman section and pretending all femalehood to have separate and unique tastes or the European Monetary System would be as stupid as assuming any of us appreciate William Dyball, Henry Lobbys on Radio 4s independent Warren's Hour discussing blackcurrants and 16th century nuns.

Hence the failure of any television equivalent. Any attempt to be broadly appealing has failed speedily and tactically. The Big Show and Weekend The Woman put back the women. The woman a couple of centuries while Berlusconi, Yvonne Fair and Changling Rooms subtly, depressingly give women what they really want to see.

And don't expect the increasing number of women executives in television to change the world. If they're there because they're good at their jobs, it's Jane Rod gets her post of BBC's controller then it will be because she has to equal measure the ability to be a serene, decisive and ruthless as well as sometimes being a bit of a cunt, just as much as her male rivals. Her job is not to champion her sex.

If you want to change the lot of the still subordinated and powerless woman, forget giving her own TV channel. Teach her to bring up her teens differently.

Media (Ray) is managing director of the production company, David Wood.

was the single prototype of the indie album? The other classes, the first season, the Optimized D5, and what were US students fellows the Dave Matthews Band doing on the playlist?

The letters pages and the websites buzzed. A group of producers was recruited by Capital management and by the Radio Authority. A link associated with an X was thrown through a window at Capital's HQ. Three months on and soon, if not all, of the dust has settled. Xfm, with its Capital group owner at its shoulder, has dropped the 7, and on its only alternative tag, has introduced rigidly-adhered-to playlists, as has dropped the D5s material on, as a result, horrendous figures have climbed from the initial takeover—through to reach the peak of the old Xfm—around 250,000, or half of the original target. The Radio Authority, after proposing a five cent capital for outlining the box adverts contained in Xfm's promise of performance, has said it is happy with progress and has agreed to review the situation after three months.

Hostile takeover or friendly rescue? Capital, it is widely assumed, bought the station after it was thrown in its attempts to buy Virgin. When the Xfm license was awarded to the station's founder, Chris Parry, a lot of people were waiting for it to fail. As it faltered

**So for people to infer that we don't know what we are doing ...'**

**Richard Park (above)**

according to the deal and is Capital's crime, would damage the core product, Capital PM.

"There is no danger of an encroaching capital PM, thanks why we are the best people to run this. Most people, if they were running it, would move in that direction if didn't work. But the mother ship is to present, and as the person who created the mother ship, I'm not about to put an iceberg next to it. We have only got the intention of getting new music out in this city. It is a strategy of public-spirited attitude for a commercial broadcast, but the theme that the marketing can only survive inside the wing of the mainstream is created by one of the few employees to stay with Xfm pre- and post-takeover.

"There was a little too much optimism and a little too much personal choice when Xfm was at Charlotte St," says Susan van Campen, who joined as a volunteer and is now part of its production team, representing the views at the D5 at playlist meetings. "And the playlist was more sheltered-in, which was a

so. Caplan gives out his business cards, but he never takes any. "I don't need them," he says. "I don't need to be strong. Or at least that is the theory. But the talisman of the My Kinko's restaurant chain and its rebranding as the Capital Cash has the veneer of 'wanting' catering about it, the surreal equivalent of the Fashion Café. The share price, too, has gone through turbulent times, dropping from a high of \$44.95 to \$7.29 in six months. And the negative press surrounding Xfin has not helped. Whether or not the shareholders are getting filthy, perhaps ready to abandon a risky long-term experiment such as Xfin, Park remains upbeat about group prospects. "It's our radio nation inside this radio group. If I'm wrong, I'll smother the entire business." Is there, I ask him, any reason why a national broadcaster, or even a national broadcaster? He doesn't blink. There aren't enough radio frequencies available. There are no reasons beyond that.

When digital comes around, Capital — and Park — will be there, acquisitive and hungry, the great white shark of commercial radio, constantly moving, constantly consuming and growing to survive. Park points across his office at an early poster for Xfin, por-talever, it reads: "Nine out of 10 people hold they preferred Capital." An overtly tricky piece of negative advertising, it turned out. "The back

When Capital Radio snapped up Xfm the indie fans went wild with rage. Was London's favourite station trying to wipe out the opposition? **Dan Gialister** reports on the battle to control the music we hear

# Capital offence

**"In that next hour,"** said the deep, rumbling voice, "you will have the chance to win copies of the new R&M CD and to take extracts from the album's exclusive R&M interview. A week later the name R&M was replaced by U2, the chance to win copies of the Irish supergroup's new greatest-hits package was again promised, in the next hour."



Drinks with the usual on a moose  
Diana, the livers' attention, to  
be them, was elsewhere.

First forward to Xmas, November  
1998. No longer based in middle-  
friendly Charlotte Street, London's  
only alternative is now billed in the  
dearly old headquarters of its new  
owner, Capital. It serves an unlikely  
combination, and the baker's-  
changes around-wall, the whole-you-will  
seriously sound not a little unusual  
and Xmas great unnamed  
sacred midnight Xmas, the world.

**'This is the most  
successful radio  
group in the UK.'**



**So for people to infer that we don't know what we are doing ..."**

**Richard Park (above)**

huzzed. A group of protesters was joined by Capital managers and by the Radio Authority. A brick smashed with an X was thrown through a window at Capital's HQ. Three months on and some, if not all, of the dust has settled. Xfm, with its Capital group over its shoulder, has dropped the 7 and its only alternative tag, has introduced night-adhered-to playlists, and has dropped the D4a marching on. As a

according to the above, is Capital's crime, would damage the core product, Capital FM.

There is no danger of us concealing on Capital FM, that's why we are the best people to run this. Most people, if they were running it, would move in that direction if it didn't work. But the mother ships is great shape, and as the person who created the mother ship,

Hostile takeover or friendly rescue? Chrysler, it is widely assumed, is not the latter.

bought the album after it was thwarted in its attempt to buy Virgin. When the Xfm licence was awarded to the album's founder, Chris Parry, a lot of people were waiting for it to fail. As it faltered and then took off, Parry was

terrible problem because we are a commercial radio station. How are you supposed to gather revenue and drive sales? It was great as an ideal and it was great as a dream and it was my favourite radio station ever, but it wasn't working. There was no money left. It had to be bought."

corporate malfeasance, leaving no room for a new alternative.

Park, meanwhile, is bullish about his, and the group's, ability to make XM work. "This is the most successful radio group in the U.S. We are the number one station. Capital leads the next radio station in London by 15 million listeners. So for people to infer that we don't know who we are doing is . . . His voice trails off before coming back to life with examples from across the country—Suway, Wlan Kurl, and Hampshire, where in each the stations are number one."

THE DOMINANCE and power of Capital has provoked protests in some parts, where falterers have been surprised to find their cherished local output on the AM wave-band replaced with the incessant sound of Capital Gold. Park is dismissive. "You've got to understand about the AM band, it means fewer listeners, it's not the future, it's very much the heritage thing. Put the heritage music on there, put the football on there."

so, it can give itself nothing to strengthen. At least that is the theory. But the chairman of the Xinhua News Agency, Wang Kang, sitting in the Capital City has been regarded as the Capital City has the venue of "vanity" asserting about it, the natural equivalent of the "radio" call. The share price, too, has gone through turbulent times, dropping from a high of 44.49 to 27.29 in six months. And the negative press surrounding Xinhua has not helped. Whether or not the shareholders are getting jittery, perhaps ready to abandon a risky, long-term experiment such as Xinhua, fact remains: upbeat about group prospects.

"It's our radio station inside this radio group. If it's wrong, it's a snooker, the other business," Li

Capital should not become a national broadcaster? He doesn't blink. "There aren't enough fire-quirks available. There are no reasons beyond that."

When digital comes around, Capital — and Park — will be there, acquisitive and hungry, the great white shark of commercial radio, constantly moving, constantly consuming and growing to survive.

early poster for Xfm, pre-takeover. It reads: "Nine out of 10 people said they preferred Capital." An over-the-top piece of negative advertising, as it turned out. "The best ad I ever made," says Barb.



**Diary** ● Victor Lewis-Smith, paid a truckload of money by the London Evening Standard for his witty and original thoughts on television, seems to understand the word witty but stumbles over the word original.

Here he is writing in the Standard in June 1994, about GMTV: "Next we moved to Mr Motator, a black Himmeler look-alike, dressed in body stockings to tight you could see his sex. In fact, close up you could see his religion." And here he is with some "original" thoughts on GMTV in last week's Standard: "The black Mr Motator (a black Himmeler who habitually dressed in a body stocking so tight that you could see not just his sex but his religion too)."

And here is Victor "original" Lewis-Smith writing again in the 1994 article: "The network's sole response to the recent damning report has been to engage Rhio Peter's Antenna Turner, a rare example of a presenter leaving a children's show and going intellectually downmarket."

And here are some more "original" thoughts in last week's Standard: "They temptred Antenna Turner away from Blue Peter and onto their sofa. It must have been the only known example of a presenter leaving a children's show and going intellectually downmarket."

Max Hastings, editor of the Standard, will be delighted.

● World in Action has got into a bit of trouble in Glasgow. The programme engaged a number of actors to practice up and down Squidhead Street with undisciplined T-shirts, "tasting" to details next week.

● There have been exciting developments in the diary's "Save John Motator's sheepskin coat", intriguing details next week.

# What do women really want?



Last week Oprah said she was backing an all-new women's TV channel for America. What a stupid idea, says Muriel Gray

Hum. Here we go again. Oprah Winfrey and her assorted scribes-up shoulder-padded women TV executives have decided that it's time for an American women's TV channel.

Of course the "who cares" factor is large, but the hazard of such a cranky plan (igniting even a brief chattering-class debate in Britain is sufficient to irritate to want a reminder of why the idea stinks) is that it will be a waste of time and money. Do British women need their own channel? Not really. They already have five, and those are merely the terrestrial offerings. This is not a subjective opinion. This is not a matter of over-researched service industries in the world, it's hard fact. The majority of people who watch television, all television, everything from soap operas to documentaries, from sitcoms to New At Ten, are women, with just about the single exception of sport. If you can't attract women viewers to your programme, you simply won't get ratings.

The important thing to remember in programme making is that while it is safe to alienate male viewers, it is suicide to do the same to females. Take Top Gear. The unfornorm would point to that as a very specific piece of men's programming. Not so. It is a perfect example of a man's interest presented and packaged to attract women. You don't get over

four million viewers on a minority channel by only appealing to sales reps from Presto and bearded chaps in anoraks. You desperately need their wives and mums.

So how do they do it? For a start, they never do anything as grimy and technical as look under the bonnets of their male partners. And what's more, the advertisers know that now's the time to remind them that Farmfoods can make her smile, and it's time to go to Iceland to stock up with some frozen processed potato products to keep the family ugly and unhealthy.

But one doesn't simply require these two contrasting shows to prove the point. Look at the four top-rated shows in the country — Coronation Street, Heartbeat, EastEnders, and Emmerdale — and try fruitlessly to convince yourself that these are not almost exclusively female-orientated products.

**You don't get over four million viewers by only appealing to bearded chaps in anoraks. You need their wives and mums**

## Oh, brave new seedless world

**D**rifting down the aisles of my local late-night Tesco, lulled to a trance by saturated lighting, drunk on the aroma of consumerism, I find myself in the fruit and veg section, directly palpating a half-price sweetie, rattling a Cox's orange time-expired punn for bruises and patches of rampant decay, while struggling with thumb and forefinger to prise open one of those tear-off plastic bags without dropping the fruit on the floor. At this point my eye is arrested by a label that carries the following warning: May Contain Seeds.

It is attached to an orange. At first I think it must have been misapplied, or mislabeled, or transposed by a customer, maybe from a box of cashews. But no, it seems that every orange in the tray bears a tiny stick-on label with this warning, alongside the country of origin. Has porridge, it has lumps in it. Roses have thorns

Life is like porridge, it has lumps in it. Roses have thorns. Shopping is filled with risk for those who yearn for seedlessness. Cherries may contain stony meat may contain bones, there are dangers even at the florist, for, in case you were unaware, Roses May Contain Thorns. Life is like porridge: it has lumps in it. So it is only fitting that Tesco should launch its no-plan project, their crusade for a seedless world in Christmas, the season of miracles. A virgin birth, a fruit that is conceived without fertilisation it all fits.

But to return to the autumn survey, Tesco customers' great fear, it reports, is "appearing inelegant or dribbling saliva when removing orange pips, especially into a gloved hand". A gloved hand? Am I missing something here? Are autumn consumers so worried about contamination that they must don gloves in order to eat? No wonder they suffer from seedphobia. The Tesco researchers seem to have stumbled upon a population of howards Itugies-style hygiene freaks whose fear of contamination is so strong they cannot eat bare-handed, let alone cope with an orange pip. Is it autumn they need, or therapy?

Cobra Ryle 1998 E-mail johnr@compuserve.net

سكرا من المرحل







He's back: Tim Southwell, onetime deputy, is the new editor of Loaded. In his first interview he tells **John Dugdale** how he plans to revitalise the magazine that was once the lads' bible. And yes, it does involve more women on the covers

# Time to Reload

o understand why the publisher IPC has wonned Thro Southwell back to London as editor, you only need to look at this magazine's December cover. Carrying a full English breakfast, someone called Shree puts us a waitress, illustrating a best piece from the *Observer*. Inside, a put-and-take spread on Devlin Taylor, Hollywood star and former *Royal Glee* columnist, joins a natural for the front. Particularly as archival *PHM* have

**Who is Shae?** "She's a nobody," says Southwell, frowning down at the booze stashed on the carpet behind the editor's desk. Why let Taylor on the cover? "This is it." The photographer who took these pictures of his probably wasn't even told they had cover potential. Why might not even get it posted out of it."

Less than a fortnight ago, Southwell says, IPC editor-in-chief Alan Lewis (described as a cross between Don Lyman and the Major in *Pewty Towers*) and the man who had acted as London's supportive "funny uncle" within the company "funky uncle" drank, which swiftly resulted in the exit of incumbent editor Derek Harbison. Formerly No 2 to founding editor James Brown, now at GQ, Southwell was his promoting Gettaway With It, his brochure of a

success story that began when he and Brown — both Leeds Utd fans, both then working for the music press — came up with the idea of a mag that would capture the euphoria they felt after a Leeds victory over Barcelona. “A magazine all about having the best fucking time of your life,” was how Brown described it.

"TFC realized it was not exactly fitting on all epidermas, that it was a bit broad, treading water, in danger of becoming formula-ised, and they'd heard me talking on the radio about it and probably got the idea from that. It's all the best men's magazine out there but it can be a hell of a lot better. We both wanted to recapture the essence of what it was always all about."

And what, exactly, does that mean? "Taking life by the scruff of the neck, open-ended adventure. In magazine terms, you can make it up."

as you go along, do whatever you want. There are no limitations on what Loaded can do, or on the avenues people who work for it can pursue. I want to get the message across to everyone in the office, from the work experience person up, that they can contribute, that it's up to them to shape the magazine and not let it go down the pan.

what ... I think you'll need to read between the lines there. Anyway, it's still a great football club, but it needs a new manager."

How will he revitalize it? "I want to inject a sense of magic, of controlled madness. People tend to focus on one aspect of London; its sexuality, but it's always been full of great writing. There are really talented people here, but they weren't being used properly. I want daring, bold, witty writing, stuff you just wouldn't get elsewhere else."

Over a lunchtime drink on his first day in the job, after an apparently well-rehearsed pep talk, Southwell is reluctant to say much about his predecessor, whose CDs and papers are still awaiting removal in a box on the editor's desk. The magazine, he says, "may be floundering slightly, but it's not in crisis".

Indeed, Harbison could be the first editor to let go after achieving a 20 per cent year-on-year circulation increase. But, crucially, in the becoming men's magazine, ERM's

last ABCs were more than 300,000 per cent. While celebrating the official PC line that "Derek did a great job," Southwell can't help feeling that odd criticism emerge as she acts out what needs to be put right. More odd: "Readers' month icons (such as Vinny Jones) haven't been on the cover but weren't. Some people and boring magazines were allowed to get into the magazine, such as readers photos of themselves mooning."

Originally a "national faze" marked out from other men's mags by its refusal to follow in publicists' agenda ("to cover the latest film or whatever"), Loaded has "strayed and become more PR-led, as if its running out of ideas," says Southwell. "And if it's lacking ideas, you need an idea person, which is what I am and

**Men only**

**FHM**

Born Relunched  
when absorbed by  
Enke in 1994.

They, combining conventional features with product selling.  
Current issue: Cheap cameras, mini-disc, knowbuds tested.  
David Duchovny interview, feature on Goddess Raquel Welch.

**Style's** *midlife* leader, 775,000 circulation and rising. More of a rough guide to blunkin' than loaded, full of advice and consumable. **Current issue's** too confident it jakes a semi-serious feature written by a guru woman, helping readers decide if they're emotional cripples. **Highlights** Mike Reid interview. Lowlights: Couldn't say less headlines and coverlines ("Are Carenbal" for Janisler Lopez).

**Nipette** counts 1 (feature on obesity).

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**Best headline/captions:** None, see above.

**Stuff:** Borni Falk, Dennis's Derrilla Publishing launched it in 1988. *Style's* mixture of catalogue and laid

**Current issues:** *Orthodox* laid features bods with global weird-  
ers such as places on US corpse  
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Highlight: Feature on Vatican secrets.

**Forten Times**, also published by Brown.

and the paranormal, building on W's humour and freakish

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A more glamorous version of Loaded is precisely what Brown has turned GG into, putting the former colleagues on collision course. Relations between the two seem to be frosty verging on non-existent, with tension exacerbated by Brown's refusal to contribute to his former pal's book.

to look beyond a growing estrangement that began in early 1996 with the release of the book *Tolstoy vs. Dostoevsky: Style Debate or Substance?* by the author of two earlier books, *Mr. Brown* and *Mr. Tolstoy*. The book was a surprise hit, and it should be on the cover. By the time *Mr. Brown* was published, Brown had already won the Pulitzer Prize. *Mr. Tolstoy* was an award-winning success, Southwell alleges. Brown had become a "cavalier" hands-off editor, turning up just in time to demand wholesale changes to a edition ready for the printers.

**Lowlights: Plo of Hingou holy men extending penis by attaching it to roots.**

explosive encounters & (all women).  
**Best headline/napt/lori** "Scorchin' Hot Babes Worldwide" is about as good as it gets.

**Front**  
 Berni Recent launch (on issue 2) from Cabal Communications.  
 Styles Over copy of the Loaded look and formula but with even more sex.

**Current issues:** Ron Allen-son, Tony Lambrianon pro-poses. Lots of self-porn.  
 Highlights Big Ron's Foot-  
 ball Glee.

**Lowlight:** Photo of new Wonderbra babe with the Daily Star-like caption hoping she'll "get a couple of things off her chest".  
**Nipple count:** Only 4.  
**Best headline/caption:** "Psycho Hossbeast!" — for Lauren Booth column on babes who eat your soul.

Southwell's working trip to Hawaii, relations were "never the same".

All of his exploits, says Southwell, has arrived in the editor's seat by a roundabout route, despite being the obvious truth apparent. In autumn 1996 he left the magazine to develop an idea of his own for IPC (called) and to be a "Loaded with money," when Brown decamped to Conde Nast in May 1997. His deputy was approached to take over but pre-

When IRC rejected it, he left the company at the start of this year, freelancing while writing *Getting Away With It*.

If the words "lad" and "lad mag" have so far been strangely absent from this interview, that's because Southwell dismisses them with scorn. He insists Loaded was never conceived as an anti-feminist backlash, with the swaggering, loutish leading the crowd, fomented about Man. It was based on honest New Yorkish logic, he says, not misogyny. "We like looking at pictures of fancy ladies sometimes, but that doesn't mean we want to rape them."

"Lads — they don't exist, it's made up. The term is odious, it's complete bedonkies. I certainly don't know anyone like that at Loaded. I go to the theatre, I change the buns, I screw the girls."

the media can imprison you, to pretend you have a complete contempt for values. Loaded is a working-class magazine, and the liberal press has always been jealous of those guys bawling the tune of their lives."

Keen to challenge the mag's sexist

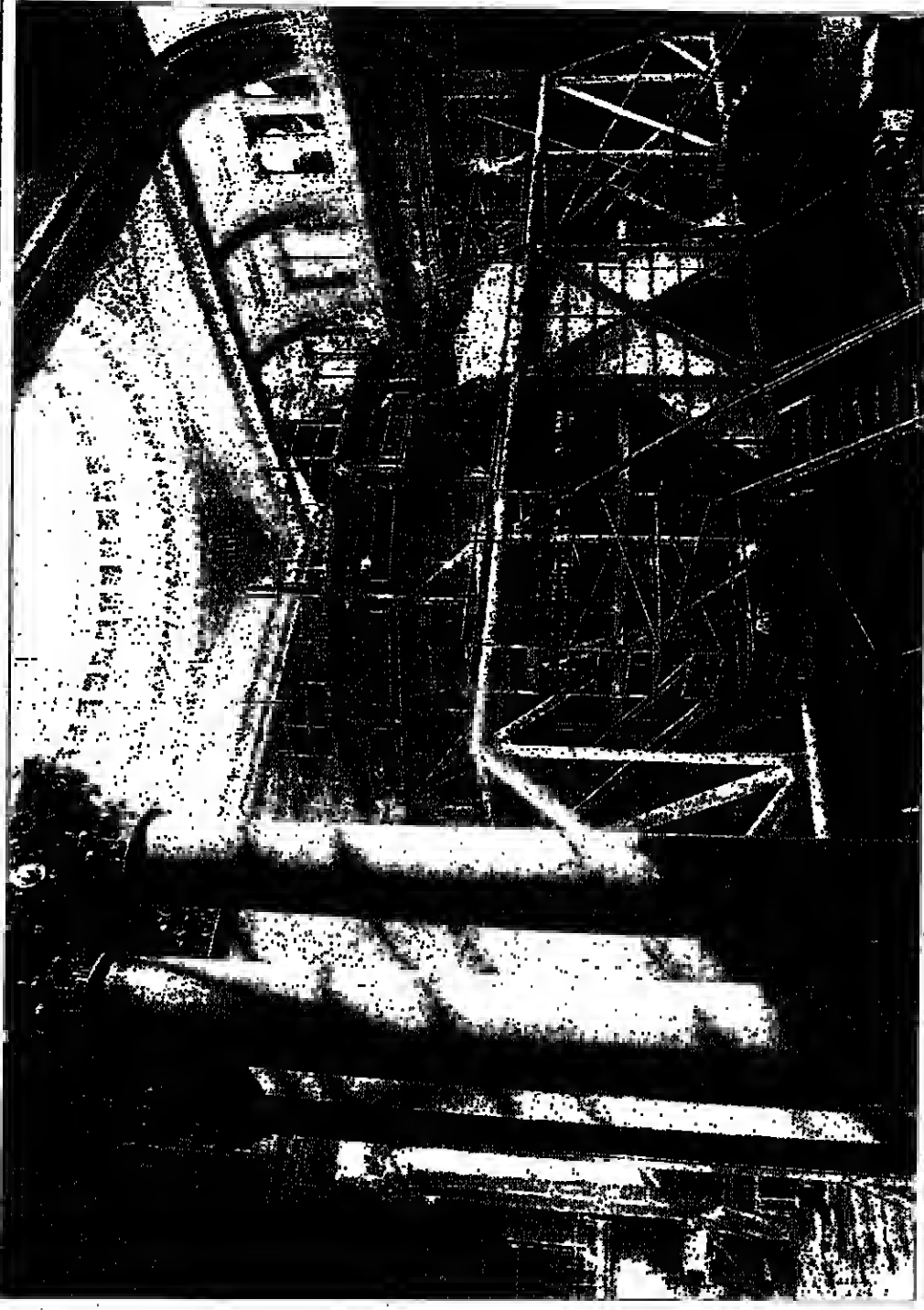
image, Southwell is nevertheless determined not to "metamorphosize into something virtuous just to appease that perception." But he does want to entice more women journalists to climb the stairs to Loaded's dingy Waterfront offices above Marie Claire's, braving the beer-stained carpet and a small, bare "essence of awfully poor charging room."

Although his PA and the fashion director are the only women in editorial, Southwell says that "Loaded was never exclusively a boys' club," and the likes of Barbara Ehren, Emma

Convinced that *Loaded* lost the plot at the height of its success, Southwell sees "no problems" in recapturing the original spirit of 1994, when realization of their dreams made it "like being in a rock

band. Life being in Oasis, in fact:

# Arts Architecture



Today, Manchester's Royal Exchange emerges from the rubble of its second bomb this century — with a new theatre in the wings. By **Jonathan Glancey**

# Phoenix rising

**T**he Royal Exchange Theatre landed in Manchester 22 years ago to great acclaim. Landed then used as rather shabby offices for what remained of the cotton trade until the idea of the theatre took root in the late sixties.

The new, modular theatre was clever and happy idea. It saved old buildings and gave the Royal Exchange Theatre Company what was probably the most up-to-the-minute situation of its kind in the world. The intriguing theatre, designed by the architects Leach, Bernstein and the engineers Mark Purdum & Partners and One Group, was effectively hung from the great columns that, in turn, formed the bones of the Great Hall of the old Exchange. It was a delectable display of the art of team work: young architects working with richly experienced and adventurous specialists.

It cranked, too, a theatre of rare cinemaisms which inspired some of the country's most brilliant actors and

direction. "The incentive said to come here," Allright Phineas said in 1977, the year after it opened, "is the chance to work in this democratic space. For a low price, everyone gets to hear the arts. And what you can do here is all right, and that's the difference in accordance with the plan." Twenty years on, the place was ready for a new host, the "Tunz module". Not only was the "Tunz module" in

need of refurbishment, but the Great Hall in which it perched had become littered with the inevitable detritus of a busy public space. For eight books

To have fun would be pleasured  
to have fun back looking better and  
working more effectively than I did then  
before. A sleek, glass-box entrance  
leads off RSI Arms Square into a red-  
carpeted Great Hall. This is a  
bravura performance: Edward Norton's  
architecture newly reflected through  
a mirror of high-tech, heavily deco-  
ration and light-tech wizardry. The  
renowned "lunar module" now sits  
under the central dome bathed in a  
mystic blue light and amid a sea of  
sculptural and lime-based plants.

The space-frame theatre con-  
tributes its own mesmeric light  
show. From the "crow's nest" balcony  
of the lunar module, seven high-

It was as if the dome had opened up like the roof of a super-villain's headquarters

Butter than ever... Lucitt  
Barnes's restored 'tunar  
modest' theatre sits among the  
Baroque columns of the Great Hall  
mule, but not kismet. And the clinger  
that littered the Great Hall) has  
gone. New bars and cafes, bookshops,  
a "function room" and a new 120-seat  
studio theatre have been smuggled  
into the vestraes of the old building,  
ordered neatly behind the columns of  
the hall and along a smart and whizzy  
new mezzanine gallery surrounding  
the theatre.

**T**he studio is particularly close to the Royal Exchange's heart. It's not your average black box, but has been designed as a flexible space, painted a deep blue. Almost unheard of for a studio, it has its own fly tower, so that big, look-at-me scenery can be flown up and down. It also has panels that can be drawn back to reveal a vast window, enabling the drama on stage to merge with the

These details aren't just for show. They represent an attempt to create an architectural context for new forms of theatre, rather than just new plays. It picks up the original idea of a democratic building and carries it into a new era. "We think of the main theatre as being a public square and the studio as being the interesting back alley you walk down to have a little explore,

It all looks good and promises to work well, right down to the intriguing new vacuum-flush lavatories. Again, these have not been installed as gratuitous high-tech gizmos, but because the way they work has enabled extra lavatories to be installed where no conventional plumbing would dare to go. In any case, they are in keeping with Levitt Bernstein's "techy" theatre.

The theatre, despite the additions of shows and restaurants, remains the same in many respects. Superficially, it is much as it was before. Changes to its structures have been radical, yet all but invisible. The roof has been raised to create a more gracious and useful foyer. It can also be opened, partially or fully, to allow significant changes in the acoustics from performance to performance (or even act to act). New lighting, heating, ventilation and seats place the theatre at the forefront of design and performance. If you feel uncomfortable here, it will be the intention of playwrights and directors, not the fault of architects.

The cost of the work, \$18.5 million, represents good value. In its latest guide, the theatre is a sophisticated meeting place to be. Buildings within buildings, structures within structures, arcades always coexisting, whether they are a baroque temple to an even earlier Renaissance courtyard or the uplifting and tumultuous suspended, as if by magic, in the middle of the discreet Royal Festival Hall.

The Royal Exchange shows how even the most overtly expressed contemporary technology can sit happily with the most pompous Baroque architecture. The very first applause tonight should be offered as a tribute to the stage and those who have created it, each and every time.

It was as if the dome had opened up like the roof of a super-villain's headquarters

[illegible]



# Women

## The age of dissent

Michele Hanson



### A matter of fact

It came round in time of her favourite jumpsuits which she found in an Oxford shop. It is brightly coloured, decades old, hand-knitted and the wool slightly matted with age, but Olga loves it and as she is an artist, she knows it is beautiful.

My mother was horrified. She rummaged desperately in her cupboards and hunted out all her old jumpers, lining them up and knitted by herself, and begged Olga to take one. "It's better than that thing," she said in her forthright way, pointing at Olga's beloved woolly, lusciously Olga was very keen on my mother's offering. She is to have it shortly for her birthday.

"I wouldn't wipe the floor with the one she was wearing," said my mother later. Perhaps she is, because she kept the final damning critique until after Olga had left. This was no mean feat for my mother. She usually sees a lot as an untruth. If someone finds a thing, then she must tell them.

"But suppose they don't want to know?" I asked. "You've got a fat bun," she called out last week, seeing me outlined in a long pink neck. "It's the pink," I allowed, poked it off and put on a black one. But then I foolishly wore baggy trousers.

"Your bun is definitely getting fatter," said my mother again and then she advised me to buy a wig. She is on a roll. Sporting Rosemary and the red wigging off for her dog walk, she felt a need to blunt the truth again. "You both look scandalous," she called.

This is nothing new. My mother has often nagged Rosemary. "Why do you wear those dark colours?" she has moaned on. "They do nothing for your complexion. You need a bit of colour." Rosemary doesn't even own a lipstick. My mother can scarcely move without one.

Last night, Rosemary and I sat in her living room looking plain. "I'm not attractive," said Rosemary in a heart-rending way. "You are!" I allowed and Rosemary is safely, after all this, she still admires my mother. "She's marvellous. So smart! She must have been amazing in her youth," says Rosemary. "She's a disciplinarian for a moment. 'If I see you with a lipstick for Christmas' can you imagine the harsh strategy she would use?"



Julie Clayton, an Australian whose naked body was found wrapped in a cloth in Lincolnshire in July 1994. The police had neither immediate leads nor a clue as to her identity. They used computer-enhanced techniques to create this picture and in the end they were lucky: circumstantial and forensic evidence meant the murderer



Rachel Nicholl, who was attached to health on Wimbledon Common in July 1992. Her killer has yet to be caught. Colin Stagg was cleared of this murder after the judge ruled that the case against him hinged on evidence obtained from a "money-trap" operation in which an undercover WPC posed as a girlfriend to elicit a confession

The three women pictured here are all dead, murdered by strangers. If they had been men, their cases would have been easier to solve. Ros Coward reports

## To catch a killer

The frozen killing of women by strangers has become an obsession of our times, one promoted by women crime writers such as Lynda La Plante on television and Michele Walker in fiction. But the perpetrators are ultimately revealed as the real forensic detail inevitably delivers the criminal to the hands of justice, the reality is less clear. Such crimes are rare in real life. Home Office statistics suggest there are approximately 20 killings of women by strangers each year.

While violent murders of women may be rare, however, they have a disproportionate effect on the female psyche, limiting women's freedom of movement. They also often entail a lack of hard evidence and an intricate picture of the crime before the trial.

The police under immediate pressure to link this killing with others in the current anxieties about the killing of Lai and Megan Russell. While fiction portrays a sedate predation on every corner in real life it can appear the police are incompetent at finding and prosecuting

them. So, in this sensationalised area, what are the real issues for the police? By definition, murders like those of Rachel Nicholl and Lai and Megan Russell are difficult to prove because the victims have no connection with the perpetrator except in his fantasy. Unlike crimes committed for profit or revenge, psychosocial/psychological crimes have nothing to link them with a particular victim or victim.

In 1994, Lincolnshire police were confronted with just such a scenario when they found the naked body of a woman in a ditch. It had been there for three days, there were no immediate leads and it was three weeks before police found out the woman's identity, having used computer enhancement techniques to create a picture of her before the trial.

The police under immediate pressure to link this killing with others in the current anxieties about the killing of Lai and Megan Russell. While fiction portrays a sedate predation on every corner in real life it can appear the police are incompetent at finding and prosecuting

hurry. Then it's the question of, in this case, it revealed astonishingly high levels of anti-depressants. Eventually the woman was identified as Julie Clayton, a young Australian who had briefly belonged to a small religious sect in Northamptonshire. Initially members came under suspicion but their information proved accurate and police traced her to St. Austell. There they found people who knew she had accepted a lift in a battered van from a man claiming he had a yacht in Southampton. By a leap of lateral thinking, the van was traced and police found the owner had previously been cautioned for attempting to abduct a woman. The police had not pressed charges.

In Southampton, the "yacht" turned out to be a battered bulk-up ended in a scrapyard. But police found the man had stolen another yacht and lured another girl on board. She, too, had escaped, swimming across the Channel. On the other side, the police found a jar of ground-up anti-depressants. "We were pretty sure

then that what we had was a dangerous predator," Howard says. Here ends the stuff of police procedural fiction. But the real problem for the police in cases like this often lies in the extreme difficulty of getting a conviction. In the wake of scandals about improperly obtained evidence, police no longer pin any hope on confession. Nor is the prosecution allowed to produce evidence in court that the suspect has not heard before. The defence will drive holes through any shaky evidence, yet this is in the nature of such trials. Forensic evidence is rarely definitive and even identification parades can be undermined. Had Colin Stagg's trial for the murder of Rachel Nicholl proceeded, it would have depended on circumstantial evidence. In Michele Stagg's case, witnesses were convicted criminals who can be unreliable — either they are attention-seeking or they are returned to prison where grasping is the worst crime of all.

In Lincolnshire, the police were lucky: combined circumstantial and forensic evidence meant life for the



Lin Russell, who was battered to death with a hammer in Chislehampton, Kent, in July 1996. Michael Stone was last month acquitted of the murder of Lin and her daughter Megan. Then earlier this month, Barry Thompson, a key witness in the trial, was arrested following his allegation that he committed the murders

murder. But such cases always leave questions: was the one predator among many or had he done it before? Police thinking has finally begun to address this question. In May 1997, they were sufficiently concerned about unsolved murders of women to set up Operation Enigma to re-examine 207 cases. "It was not easy to obtain a global view of the current of the problem," says David Phillips, chief constable for Kent and chair of the Crime Academy which handles this intricate data collection. "In spite of our best efforts after the Ripper case, we were not convinced it was good enough." As a result, they instigated a national data-collection and analysis project, to "link related crimes or improve crime scene assessment."

Operation Enigma concluded that there were 21 possible clusters of murders and handed this information to the relevant police stations last April. "Clusters" is as definite as they are prepared to be. "It's not easy to link killings but you create enormous media interest if you do."

Phillips says. Not that media interest is always helpful. "If a serial killer knows he's being sought, he might vary his methods. Police might be able to identify a killer by the way he kills. The idea of a serial killer keeping a diary of his victims has become a cliché."

Investigation. This is not the kind of offender profiling glamourised by Cuckoo. "That's another way item for the media and people have false expectations of what it can deliver," Phillips says. "More important is crime scene assessment, officers' ability to develop a theory of why this victim, in this place, this time. Then we can bring in a psychologist to work on it."

So do they have any understanding of the sadistic hatred of women that seems to be involved in such murders? "That's part of the picture," Phillips says. "Men who murder like this despise their victims. Their attitude to humans in general is psychopathic because they feel no empathy. Attitudes to women come into it because of the sexual component of these crimes." He does not belittle the significance of sexual sadism. "It's unethical that police don't take seriously sexual crimes against women. Take them very seriously. With cases of stranger rape and abduction, there is always the potential for progression to homicide."

Phillips' attitude certainly makes a shift. Police often categorise these crimes as "unrelated." Home Office statistics on reasons for homicide do not include sexual sadistic motivations — and something beyond comprehension is beyond solution. Operation Enigma and the new sensitivity to violent crime against women are symptoms of a shift that is important in changes in police culture. Feminists may not give them credit for it, but improvements in the police's ability to trace and prosecute would have very direct effects on how safe women perceive themselves to be.

## What a bunch of bankers!

Last week, a City trader's encounter with a strip-teggings made front page news. Everyone laughed. Or did they? **Rachna Prasad** asks the few women on the trading floor how they felt

Come on, it's only a bit of fun. No harm meant. That's it. You know you haven't lost your sense of humour. Were you shocked by the stunt this week when a City trader, accompanied to a meeting with his bosses at Deauville, Europe, by a strip-teggings, posing as an officer from regulatory body the Securities & Futures Authority. She was silent throughout the telling off for mislaying documentation, then she told him he was under arrest.

Moments later, his colleagues crowded in and she began to strip. The incident is another reminder that this is where the masters, not the underlings, of the money trade, employed each public humiliation but women there is a 10 to one men to women ratio at senior management level, how do female employees feel? An indication of just how isolated City women consider themselves is the fact that none would be identified for this article — even when they had something positive to say.

One investment bank employee said of the strip-teggings incident: "It doesn't surprise me — traders are great jokers. I've loved working in the City but you have to be one of the lads, even if you're not really, you can't be a wallflower."

Others, however, complain about sexual bullying from Deauville. "I'm a female and to the under desk," One woman — a City analyst for 12 years — says the typical male trader is still "adrenaline-driven, walking testosterone. In meetings, you're outnumbered and they'll ignore you. There's a lot of explicit humour aimed at you, but you have to try to laugh it off or you're accused of not being able to take a joke."

Helen Dumbell, chairman (and City Women's Network) says the display of "power" play is so much part of City culture. Bringing in a strip-teggings is not about sex but about making some one feel small so you can feel big.

However, there are signs that the "jokes" that characterise the City in the episode are becoming less funny. "The culture of the City has a long way to go, especially at senior levels," says Zena James of Oppenheimer 2000, a business-led campaign to increase women's participation in the workforce. "It's way behind most other sectors. But progress is being made: 18 months ago, Oppenheimer 2000 had no members from the City, now they have six."

If anything is turning the macho



women in the City, it's the arrival of American and other foreign employees at an establishment that until the early nineties was a bastion of British men. A female City analyst says: "The fact that the Americans are taking over so much in the City makes a strip-teggings incident highly unusual. In the States or in Germany, you'd be shocked. People are frightened of being sued and Britain is becoming more litigious." Only three months ago, a female trader at ABN-Amro alleged that her \$233,000 per year tender position after having the threat of court action is a reminder that bovine behaviour can be brought to book. And a slew of sexual harassment cases have been filed and settled in the US against New York's biggest brokerage houses, including Salomon Smith Barney and Merrill Lynch. One filed in September against Garthman LLC, for \$10m in damages, alleges that male employees sexually harassed women by using obscene language and intimidation, and hiring strippers to perform on the trading floor. In the City's Exchange Square today, a spokeswoman for an international bank who does not want to be identified says: "Strip-teggings certainly intrudes new attitudes. The City has been dominated by old-boy networks and Oxbridge types, but every financial district in the world is shocked when it comes to women. It's been male-dominated for such a long time."

**The Guardian**  
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**Sean Pertwee** done his webuit as JC — a one-time surfing legend starring the thirteenth year in the face and not liking the look of it. The girlfriend (Catherine Zeta-Jones) wants some commitment, the uncrowned need to be impressed. (Sean Pertwee and Steven Macdonald) have topped it all by getting involved in a kidnapping. Set in Cornwall's stunning community, Blue Juice is a vibrant comedy thriller which explores a typically mislaid crime with warmth and humour.